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Leading Oakland School Reform Organization Announces New Leadership

Oakland -- The Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools (BayCES) announced a new Executive Director, LaShawn Routé Chatmon, to succeed Steve Jubb, who is retiring after 11 years to pursue new projects. Jubb's retirement will be effective June 30. Routé Chatmon, currently the Director of the High School Redesign Initiative at BayCES, will take the helm of the organization at that time.

For the past seven years, Routé Chatmon has worked with BayCES on several large-scale school reform initiatives and contributed to the creation of over 30 new schools in the region. Currently she supports district and school leaders to manage and improve new high schools, including trainings for Oakland school principals in current approaches to school improvement with a focus on raising achievement of all students regardless of race or class background.

"It's a wonderful testimony to the strength of the organization that one of our senior directors was the best candidate to assume leadership for the next phase of our work," said Robert Spencer, the BayCES Board President. "LaShawn is an extremely knowledgeable and skilled education leader who has earned great respect from teachers, administrators, and community partners," he said.

Routé Chatmon has devoted her professional life to teaching, improving schools, and making a quality education available to all students. Earlier in her career, Routé Chatmon was a teacher leader at Berkeley High School, where she also served as summer school principal and the co-director of the Diversity Project, a collaborative reform effort with UC Berkeley that addressed the ways that racial inequality is manifested in high schools.

BayCES, an Oakland-based non-profit works with local school districts including Oakland Unified, Emeryville, and Berkeley, as a partner in improving student graduation rates and achievement. It is a leader in small schools reform working to create equitable schools where every child receives the education they need.

"BayCES is a vital community partner as we build an effective system of schools that works for every single child," said OUSD State Administrator Dr. Kimberly Statham. "LaShawn brings enormous integrity and wisdom to the table and I very much look forward to continuing to work with her in her new leadership role."

“I am honored to lead the bold and visionary work Steve and the entire BayCES organization began with our district, school, and community partners,” said Routé Chatmon. “I am blessed to have a leadership team with over 40 combined years of school reform experience with BayCES and a wealth of teaching and school administration experience, and together we will provide even greater support to our local school leaders and teachers.”

Outgoing Executive Director Jubb, who earned BayCES a national reputation in school reform as a leader in the small schools movement and urban district redesign, will spend the next few months assuring a smooth transition for Routé Chatmon into her leadership role.

“I couldn’t be more delighted about the choice of my successor,” said Jubb. “LaShawn is a born leader with a passionate commitment to the work and a deep understanding of how to improve schools in the long underserved local communities where we focus our work.”

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Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools (BayCES)

BayCES is an education services nonprofit whose mission is to dramatically improve educational outcomes and life options for students and families who have been historically underserved by their schools and districts. We do this by supporting school, district, and community leaders to create and sustain systems of equitable and high-performing small schools. This work is driven by the belief that schools everywhere should prepare children for life anywhere.

Over the past six years BayCES has contributed to the creation of nearly 40 new small schools in the Bay Area. This work has been made possible by major grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and many local funding partners including the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, and many others. BayCES provides a range of services to new schools primarily by providing highly experienced and trained coaches that assist district staff, principals, and teachers in setting up new schools, developing school policies and best practices, and improving student learning. More information is available at www.bayces.org. Photos available on request.

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