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HOPE ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY CO-OP APPOINTS NEW CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

Denver, CO—June 14, 2007—Hope Online Learning Academy Co-Op, the first Colorado online K-12 charter school to provide physical learning centers for children to learn, announced today it has appointed Sherida Peterson Chief Academic Officer. A veteran of Colorado public schools, Ms. Peterson will be responsible for driving educational performance; overseeing curriculum, instruction and assessment; managing professional development programs and leading an educational team to increase educational opportunities for Hope Online students.

“As Hope Online enters its third year, we are pleased to be joined by someone with such vast experience in setting and delivering high quality academic standards in Colorado’s public schools,” said Heather O’Mara, Executive Director of Hope Online. “Her leadership and knowledge will be instrumental in Hope Online’s progress in closing the achievement gap and advancing the graduation rates among Colorado’s at-risk students.”

Prior to joining Hope Online, Ms. Peterson devoted 30 years to Jefferson County Public Schools where she received her start as an English teacher. Peterson rose through the ranks to become Chief Academic Officer. During her tenure with Jefferson County Public Schools, Ms. Peterson helped bolster student achievement and graduation rates and helped devise an academic and school improvement plan that received acclaim from the Colorado Department of Education. Ms. Peterson earned an EDS degree in administration and supervision and a Master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Concurrent with this announcement, Hope Online has created an Office of Student Services that will be headed up by Doris Baldwin. As the Dean of Student Services, Ms. Baldwin will be responsible for the development and oversight of student-centered programs that advance and retain Hope Online students, including such programs as GED, work study, college dual enrollment, career planning, alternative “last chance” options, as well as other academic and social service programs.

With more than 25 years of public school education and administration experience, Ms. Baldwin has been instrumental in the growth of HOPE Online since joining the organization in 2005. Her expertise and a strong commitment to serving at-risk and low achieving students has been key to providing oversight of HOPE Online learning center site coordinators, accountability, overall integrity of academic programs and student achievement.

“Given Hope Online’s intensive focus on the at-risk student population in Colorado, student services is a critical and evolving role for the school,” continued Ms. O’Mara. “Ms. Baldwin’s history of leadership and experience at Hope Online will make her a tremendous asset in advancing Hope Online student services initiatives.”

Prior to joining HOPE Online, Ms. Baldwin was the Dean of Students at Eaglecrest High School in the Cherry Creek School District. As the Dean of Students, she was responsible for school accountability, student attendance and discipline policies, student data management and budgets. Ms. Baldwin also served as the mentor for new teachers and deans, as well as overseeing deans and the attendance office. She has also served as the dean of students and/or counselor at University City High School, Smoky Hill High School and Eaglecrest High School. Ms. Baldwin earned her MAED and MSW at Washington University in St. Louis, MO and her BA at Rust College in Holly Springs, MS.

About Hope Online Learning Academy Co-Op

Hope Online Learning Academy Co-Op (Hope Online) is an online public charter school that is bridging the digital divide by affording at-risk students in K- 12 the benefits of online education in a nurturing environment. That nurturing environment is provided by Learning Centers that have been established by organizations with a commitment to education, and provide a low 1:18 adult to student ratio. In its second academic year, Hope Online has students statewide, with the majority of students representing minority populations and qualifying for free and reduced lunch. Hope Online provides the only opportunity for Colorado's at-risk kids, with working parents, to participate in online education.