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Press Release

Aspire Juanita Tate Elementary Academy Opens

Excitement, pride and inspiration are cornerstones of this event hosted by the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Costa Mesa, CA, January 26, 2012: Juanita Tate was an inspiring woman of vision and courage, dedicated to improving the quality of life in South Los Angeles Neighborhoods. What better tribute to a woman with such high ideals and the courage to make her vision reality, than to make her the namesake of a school which will improve quality of life for families in this inner-city neighborhood? Once the site of dilapidated industrial businesses and a dirt field, this modern new school transforms the community and is a source of pride and inspiration. It creates a positive environment in which to nurture future generations of Los Angelinos. Present at the Grand Opening Celebration were representatives including Dr. John Deasy, Superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District, the Honorable Jan Perry, Los Angeles' Ninth District Councilwoman and Mark Williams, son of the inspirational and visionary Juanita Tate.

Community schools support learning and healthy development. They strengthen families and communities. Parity and opportunity for quality education, care and recreation are hallmarks of community schools. Strong partnerships are integral to the creation of such schools. For instance, the shared regulation size FIFA Soccer field, funded by Concerned Citizens, a non-profit organization Juanita Tate was very involved with, provides children with green space to play during school hours and a place for them to play soccer outside of school hours. Restrooms and common areas have been designed to remain accessible during off-school hours in order to support soccer games and a variety of other community-oriented programs. Underground parking is available before and after school hours to support these activities.

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To ensure student health and environmental sustainability, CHPS High Performance Initiative goals have been met in the selection of building materials, design of engineered building systems, and choices of lighting and air circulation strategies. In order to enhance the comfort of the learning environment, careful attention was paid to reduce glare from lights, control heat loss and gain, and reinforce sight lines and acoustics. The large turf field integrates an innovative underground stormwater system, minimizing site run-off and filtering out contaminants. The school has been fully and successfully commissioned. Additionally, the design offers inherent technological flexibility, allowing for the future evolution of telecommunication and teaching methods. The U-shaped buildings define and enclose a courtyard outdoor area for safe and secure play, with unrestricted views to facilitate supervision.

The teachers and students at Aspire Juanita Tate Elementary Academy are thrilled with their new school. Research studies have proven that test scores, student retention and graduation rates all increase in high quality learning environments. The technological infrastructure gives students ready access to new learning tools by incorporating high-tech projection screens and projectors, wireless technology and the extensive placement of IT support space. The simple and well-defined aesthetic integrates bright colors and quality finishes, resulting in a sophisticated yet fun place to teach, learn and play.

Dougherty + Dougherty Architects, LLP brings extensive expertise in the design of innovative environments for community, municipal, educational and institutional clients. A Woman-owned business, the firm has provided exceptional design services and realized award-winning solutions throughout California for 32 years. The design professionals at Dougherty + Dougherty specialize in designing facilities that meet functional demands, provide for future flexibility, support emerging technologies, comply with challenging budgets and respond to sustainability goals. The firm a 2011 AIA National Award for Achieving Diversity in the Workplace, one of only three architectural firms in the nation and the only West Coast Firm to receive this honor.

[Images are included. High resolution images are available upon request.]

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