



News from: **Office of the Mayor Libby Schaaf**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Mayor Libby Schaaf Announces David Silver as Director of Education**

*Oakland*— Mayor Libby Schaaf today announced David Silver will join her administration as her Director of Education. In this role, Mr. Silver will serve as a Chief policy advisor to the mayor and work in partnership with students, families, educators, partners, the Oakland Unified School District to realize a vision of educational equity for all students in Oakland.

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“David Silver has demonstrated a unique ability to pursue and implement strategies to ensure Oakland students succeed in school — with a special focus on correcting unacceptable disparities for underserved communities,” said Mayor Libby Schaaf. “I am committed to ensuring that David has the resources and support to transform my vision of a cradle to career pipeline into reality, creating a true continuum of excellence from pre-K through K-12 and beyond. Oakland will only succeed if our kids do.”

Mr. Silver most recently served as the Chief Executive Officer of College Track, a national non-profit whose mission is to empower students from underserved communities to graduate from college. Over the past four years, he has led the organization through significant growth – from serving 900 students to more than 2000 including expansion to Colorado, Sacramento and Los Angeles; more than doubling the staff size from 30 to 85 employees; and increasing the annual budget from \$4.5 to \$15 million. Most importantly, quality increased as College Track scaled; four-year college acceptance and matriculation (94% and 89% respectively) are the highest in the organization’s history, and the college graduation rate is more than 2.5 times the national average for students in low-income communities. During this time, College Track (CT) was featured at the White House Summit on increasing

educational opportunities for all, and one of CT's students had the honor of introducing First Lady, Michelle Obama.

"I look forward to leveraging my experiences and relationships to strengthen education in the city I love," said Mr. Silver. "I have worked in education in Oakland since 1997, and I have never been more optimistic than today. We have incredible students, dedicated teachers and principals, committed families and community partners, as well as a mayor, superintendent, and School Board with a powerful vision of educational equity, and models of successful schools. This is our time."

Prior to College Track, Mr. Silver and a group of committed parents, students, educators and community members created Think College Now (TCN), a college-focused elementary school in Oakland Unified School District whose mission is to ensure all students have an opportunity to graduate from college and pursue their dreams. From 2003-2011, he served as founding principal and, during his tenure, the school received several honors including becoming the first California Distinguished School and Title I Award-Winning School in Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood.

This position is 100% funded thru a multi-year partnership with the Oakland Public Education Fund.

"As local funders, we are committed to lifting school readiness, third grade reading, graduation and college completion; we are thrilled with Mayor Schaaf's commitment to education at all levels and with Mr. Silver's proven excellence to improve equity through education," states Susan True, Director of Education at the Kenneth Rainin Foundation.

Mr. Silver graduated summa cum laude from UCLA with a B.A. in Sociology and earned his M.ED from Harvard University. He lives in the Dimond/Laurel neighborhood of Oakland with his wife and young son.

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