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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COMMUNITY LEADER AND NBA ALL-STAR TO DISCUSS HIS WORK TO IMPROVE STRUGGLING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION**

STANFORD, CA — Community leader and NBA All-Star Kevin Johnson will present a talk on Thursday, November 9, at 5 p.m. at Stanford University. Titled, "The St. HOPE Story: Transforming an Urban Community through Education," the talk will take place in the Schwab Residential Center, East Vidilakis Room. The talk is free and open to the public. A reception follows.

Johnson, who played for the Phoenix Suns from 1988-98 and for part of 2000, is the founder of St. HOPE, a nonprofit community development corporation in Sacramento whose mission is to revitalize inner-city communities through public education, leadership training, economic development and the arts.

St. HOPE Academy began in 1989 as an afterschool program at Sacramento High School in the Oak Park neighborhood where Johnson grew up. St. HOPE has expanded since its inception and is the driving force behind the creation of a \$1 million after-school facility; the 40 Acres Art Gallery and Cultural Center (a mixed-use community complex); and, since 2003, St. HOPE Public Schools, which provides high quality education to nearly 2,000 students through an elementary charter school and four autonomous small schools on the campus of Sacramento High School (Johnson's alma mater). St. HOPE is now partnering with the New York City Department of Education to help revitalize the Choir Academy of Harlem, a struggling 500-student K-12 public school.

The talk is a part of the Leadership Lecture Series, and is sponsored by the School Redesign Network at Stanford University, the Stanford Educational Leadership Institute and the Stanford University School of Education. For more information, visit <http://schoolredesign.net/>, call 650.723.8639, or email [schoolredesign@stanford.edu](mailto:schoolredesign@stanford.edu).

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**Editor's note:** Photos of Kevin Johnson are available on request by contacting Barbara McKenna at [bmckenna@stanford.edu](mailto:bmckenna@stanford.edu) or 650.725.8600.