



{ [www.myschool.org](http://www.myschool.org) }

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 5, 2008

CONTACT: Gary L. Larson  
Larson Communications  
(415) 722-0127

Julie Cruit  
Director of Marketing  
California Charter Schools Association  
(415) 356-1200 x 402

## **L.A.-BASED SYNERGY CHARTER ACADEMY AWARDED “CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE YEAR”**

*In Just Three Years, High-Performing Inner-City Charter School Cracks 800 on API*

**Sacramento, CA** – The California Charter Schools Association today awarded Synergy Charter Academy in Los Angeles as “Charter School of the Year” annual *Hart Vision Award* recipient. Co-founders and co-directors Meg and Randy Palisoc, along with several members of Synergy’s staff, accepted the award on behalf of Synergy at this year’s 15<sup>th</sup> Annual California Charter Schools Conference in Sacramento.

“Synergy Charter Academy should be credited with not only closing the achievement gap, but eliminating it,” said Caprice Young, president and CEO of the California Charter Schools Association. “Synergy Charter Academy is our ‘Charter School of the Year’ not only because of its impact on the lives of its own students, but also for being a driving force to improve the educational options for all students who have been let down by the system.”

In 2007, just three years after opening, Synergy became the first public school in South Los Angeles to successfully disprove the achievement gap among Hispanic and African American students compared to their white peers statewide. Even though 100 percent of Synergy’s students are from under-represented minorities and 83 percent are socio-economically disadvantaged, they earned an Academic Performance Index (API) score of 846, which is unprecedented in South Los Angeles and is higher than the score of 840 earned by even white elementary school students statewide.

“We’re honored that the Charter Association has selected Synergy for such a prestigious award,” said Randy Palisoc. “Our entire school community has been working so hard to create educational equity in our public schools, and the ‘California Charter School of the Year’ Award shows that all the effort was worth it.”

“A big reason for our success is that we try to live up to our name, Synergy,” added Meg Palisoc. “Everyone at Synergy has a mindset that we’re all in this together, and that mindset has helped our school have a much greater impact on student achievement.”



Established in 1995, the *Hart Vision Awards* were created in honor of retired California Senator and former California Secretary of Education Gary Hart. During his tenure as legislator, Hart authored California's charter school legislation. For this reason, the California Charter Schools Association honors his legacy by presenting annual awards to charter educators for their contributions to educational reform and improved student achievement. Since its inception, the Association has presented close to 50 *Hart Vision Awards* to California charter schools.

### **About the California Charter Schools Association**

The California Charter Schools Association is the membership and professional organization serving 687 charter public schools that serve an estimated 240,000 charter school students in the state of California. The Association's mission is to improve student achievement by supporting and expanding California's quality charter public school movement.

###