Benjamin Franklin
HIGH SCHOOL

May 15, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE TROY CARTER TO SPEAK AT BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

New Orleans, LA—**May 15, 2017** – Benjamin Franklin High School and Head of School Dr. Patrick Widhalm are proud to announce the commencement speaker for 2017 will be State Representative Troy Carter. He will speak at Benjamin Franklin High School's 57th Commencement on Tuesday, May 23, 2017.

Representative Carter has enjoyed a distinguished career in virtually every level of local and state government. In 1991, Troy A. Carter became the first African-American to be elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives from the 102nd District of New Orleans (Algiers). He served on the Education Committee, Municipal Parochial and Cultural Affairs Committee, and the Transportation & Highway Committee and served as the youngest Floor Leader representing the City of New Orleans in the Louisiana House of Representatives. In 1994, Troy Carter was elected to the New Orleans City Council representing District C, which includes the historic French Quarter and the New Orleans Westbank.

During his six years on the City Council, Council member Carter served with distinction and was a driving force in the renaissance of New Orleans with an enviable record of achievement. In 1997, Troy Carter was reelected without opposition. In 2016, Troy Carter was sworn in as the first African-American Louisiana State Senator for District 7.

Troy Carter was educated in the Orleans Parish Public school system and matriculated at Xavier University earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and business administration. He has also studied at Carnegie-Mellon's graduate school of urban and public affairs and is an adjunct professor at Xavier University. He was awarded a Green Foundation Fellow to Harvard University/John F. Kennedy School of Government's program for senior executives in state and local government.

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Benjamin Franklin High School, New Orleans' most outstanding public charter school, has been preparing students for success through academic achievement since it was founded in 1957. Consistently ranked as a "top public high school in the nation" by *U.S. News and World Report*, *Newsweek*, and *Business Week*, Franklin has received the highest School Performance Score in Louisiana, making it the #1 public school in the state, year after year. Franklin is repeatedly named a National Blue Ribbon School, producing Presidential and National Merit Scholars each year. The exceptional students, faculty and staff of Benjamin Franklin High School are the best and the brightest of New Orleans.