

I champion Albany public schools because...

THE OPPORTUNITY:

“Albany public schools have taken great strides in establishing and cultivating partnerships with a wide variety of higher education institutions, non-profit organizations and community groups. These partnerships mutually benefit the children, youth and families, teachers and community.”

THE ACHIEVEMENT:

“The City School District of Albany has a growing number of initiatives through the partnership with the School of Social Welfare at the University at Albany. This multi-faceted collaboration includes:

- Parent-led Family Resource Centers, linked to United Way Family Support Network. These centers aim to be the ‘go-to’ place for families and provide programs in peer counseling, economic self-sufficiency, case assessment and family team conferencing. Also included are Time Dollar programs in which children and families volunteer and earn credits toward school supplies and other goods and services.
- Promotion of full-service schools: agencies collocate at the school to provide services, and school social workers guide students and their families into needed services.
- Field education: School of Social Welfare undergraduate and graduate students serve as social work interns in most, if not all, of the Albany public schools; some also serve as mentors. Many school social workers are graduates of our School of Social Welfare. They in turn serve as supervisors for our interns.
- Research: The School of Social Welfare partners with the Albany public schools on grant development, evaluation research and demonstration projects. The most recent example is the successful Safe Schools Grant, a collaborative effort with School of Social Welfare’s Center for Human Services Research, which brings in nearly \$6 million to the school district to deliver mental health services and foster a safe school environment in partnership with a wide array of community agencies.”



Katharine Briar-Lawson, M.S.W., Ph.D.
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Dr. Katharine Briar-Lawson is dean of the School of Social Welfare, University of Albany. She is an experienced academic administrator and national expert on family-focused practice and child and family policy. Among her books (co-authored) are (2001) and (co-edited) *Innovative Practices with Vulnerable Children and Families* (2001). She recently has co-edited two volumes on *Evaluation Research in Child Welfare* (2002) and *Charting the Impacts of University-Child Welfare Collaboration* (2003).

She recently has co-edited a special issue of *Child Welfare* on community building.

Dr. Briar-Lawson is the recent past-president of the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work (NADD). She is also the co-chair of the United Way Family Support Network.