

I champion Albany public schools because...

The opportunity:

"I am an alumna of Albany High School and I loved high school. I want our students to be able to enjoy their years at Albany High. Because of district efforts, Albany High students enjoy a close relationship with area colleges, college presidents and college professors, which creates unparalleled opportunities for students in both careers and college.

"Among the great opportunities at Albany High: 65 student clubs and organizations, award-winning sports programs, excellent intramural programs, one of the two IBO (International Baccalaureate) programs in the Capital Region, the Sponsor-a-Scholar program, an award-winning Robotics Club, an after-school Learning Center with college tutors, Career Explorations programs, nanotechnology classes and much more."

The achievement:

"We are continuously seeking grants to enhance our academic programs for students. We also work closely with community agencies to ensure our students are well-represented in civic events.

"We also have a school board that is committed to academic excellence. School district administrators, teachers and staff explore opportunities in the areas of academics and social initiatives for our students. With teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, home-school coordinators, social workers and security staff, our student success stories are unlimited. It takes the efforts of everyone to create a true learning community."



**Maxine Fantroy-Ford, Albany High School,
Class of 1971
Principal, Albany High School**

F. Maxine Fantroy-Ford began her career in education 31 years ago instructing elementary students in the City School District of Albany. She was promoted to principal of Giffen Memorial Elementary School in 1983 and remained there until 1990, when she was appointed magnet schools director. In 1996, Ms. Fantroy-Ford became the director of elementary education and later returned to her position as principal of Giffen in 1997. She led the school until 2006 when she took the position of interim principal, and then principal, of Albany High School.

Ms. Fantroy-Ford was chosen as one of 45 individuals from around the world to take part in the Principal and Superintendent's Roundtable as part of the Oxford Round Table at St Anthony College in Oxford, England. She has been featured in numerous articles and has received many honors, including "Educator of the Week" on WTEN, Pathfinder's Award for Mentoring from the New York State Association of Women Administrators and the Spirited Achievement Award from the University at Albany. She was recognized this year by the *Times Union* as one of 25 individuals who make a difference in the Capital Region, and in *Redbook Magazine's* "Hyundai Salutes Women Who Make a Difference."