

I champion Albany public schools because...

THE OPPORTUNITY:

"I have two kids who are now adults and have kids of their own; both went to School 16 (the current Pine Hills Elementary School), then to Hackett Middle School and then ended up graduating from Albany High. As publisher of *Latino New York* magazine, both the education and physical health of kids in Albany is a concern of mine. I think that under the leadership of Dr. Eva Joseph, the district is being creative and willing and open to try new and different things, whether it's pioneering initiatives on its own or trying things that have worked in different places.

"We never stop learning, and that's a responsibility we have to ourselves and to our families and to our communities. I'm a product of public school from grade school all the way to college, so I'm one that professes that education means success. The parents have a responsibility and the community as a whole has a responsibility to the children. It's a holistic thing to educate a kid and give them what they need to learn."



Juan George
Publisher/editor,
Latino New York, and Director of Operations,
The Desmond Hotel and Conference Center,
Colonie

THE ACHIEVEMENT:

"I'm not a teacher and I'm not an administrator. But what I am is one who sees things working. I try to develop partnerships, for instance, or work with colleges and universities to provide tutoring and support. One thing that impressed me very much is the Dual Language Program at Delaware Community School. They have multilingual and multicultural instruction for kids.

"The district is looking at the state Education Department scores and how to get parents involved and how to get the community involved. It's the whole process of 'it takes a village to raise a child,' and I think the school district is handling it well. They're looking at the relationship between the schools and community agencies and what is best for our kids. "

Juan Julio George is the director of operations at The Desmond Hotel and Conference Center and the president of Latino Publishing & Communications LLC. Mr. George's career began in the early 1980s when he worked for service agencies throughout New York state, including The United Way of Greater Rochester and the New York State Department of Social Services. Mr. George was the president of Central Cleaning &

Maintenance, Inc. in Albany from 1987 until 1989 when he began his career at the Desmond. He was promoted to his current position at the Desmond in 2000 and issued his first publication of *Latino New York* magazine in 2006.

Mr. George is very involved in the community and is affiliated with many civic organizations. He previously served as the nominating committee chair and chairman of the board at the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Center, and on the board of directors at the Altamont Program. He is currently chair of the Capital District YMCA's Urban Committee and on the board of directors at the Aids Council of Northeastern New York.