

I champion Albany public schools because...

The opportunity:

"The City School District of Albany allowed me to balance academics and athletics in a way that satisfied my interests and prepared me for life beyond high school.

"One of the best things about Albany public schools is that they recognize students who go above and beyond. They provide the academic challenges and acknowledge the successes both in the classroom and out."

The achievement:

"I took eight Advanced Placement courses, six full years of French and was able to place out of calculus in college. Meanwhile I was training full-time with the varsity swim team, which I was fortunate enough to join in the eighth grade.

"The support, recognition and character-building I received from Albany public schools inspired me to aim for the top in swimming. And I did just that, as 2001 New York State Champion, NYS Most Valuable Swimmer and Olympic trials candidate."



**Laura Hotaling, Albany High School, Class of 2002
Research Coordinator
Renaissance Technologies, New York City**

Laura Hotaling graduated from Albany High School in 2002, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania and moved to New York City, where she conducts equity research for Renaissance Technologies, a hedge fund management company.

Ms. Hotaling began swimming at age 12; in eighth grade she joined the Albany High varsity swimming team, where she was a four-year MVP and the team captain. In 2001, Ms. Hotaling was honored as a NYS Champion (first place in 50-yard freestyle, second place in 100-yard freestyle) and NYS Most Valuable Swimmer, which qualified her for the Olympic trials. She continued swimming on the University of Pennsylvania women's varsity swim team, again serving as team captain and becoming a record-holder, an Ivy League finalist and a letter winner.