

I champion Albany public schools because...

The opportunity:

"I believe that this district works very hard in getting all students to the maximum levels of achievement. It has become critically important for us, as educators, to embrace new strategies and methods of improving teaching and learning. We have moved light years away from the old paradigm of one-size-fits-all educational programming, in favor of finding new ways to reach and support individual students' academic achievement. Our goal is to establish the relationships that are necessary with students and their families and communities in order to make learning relevant."

The achievement:

"Teachers are adopting and conducting new ways of teaching. There are myriad programs that have been designed to meet the individual needs of students. Our teachers are focused on understanding the different learning styles and needs of students so that the delivery of instruction is tailored to meet those individual needs.

"As a result, our classrooms are more engaging and more interactive. Classrooms are less teacher-directed and more aimed at having the teachers be the facilitators of learning in the classroom. As we strive to get all of our students to excel at high-performing levels, we continue to embrace our partnership with the National Urban Alliance (NUA) and also with neighboring institutions of higher learning, with our business community and with our social welfare institutions, all of which have a lot to offer our children and families. Schools today can't do it alone. We need everyone around the table and we need all of our partners to provide the kind of experiences and learning opportunities that will make our students competitive in the global society."



**Linda Jackson-Chalmers, Philip Schuyler High School, Albany, Class of 1969
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Community Relations
City School District of Albany**

Linda Jackson-Chalmers has served as the assistant superintendent for human resources and community relations for the City School District of Albany since 2005. Ms. Jackson-Chalmers began her career in education as an art teacher at Arbor Hill Elementary Community School and as a staff and senior counselor for the CETA Summer Youth Employment Program. She served as chairperson of art for elementary and middle schools from 1977 until 1986 when she became the principal of Arbor Hill Elementary Community School. In 1998 Ms. Jackson-Chalmers took on the role of assistant to the superintendent of schools for human resources until she stepped into the position she currently holds.

Ms. Jackson-Chalmers has a Master of Science in Education Administration from SUNY Albany and a Bachelor of Science in Studio Art from Skidmore College. She received her Teacher Certification from The College of St. Rose in 1974. Ms. Jackson-Chalmers has received numerous honors due to her outstanding commitment to the community. Most recently she was the recipient of the 2008 Skidmore College Alumni Award for Volunteerism.