

I champion Albany public schools because...

The opportunity:

"I definitely enjoy Albany High School. There's a certain feeling that you get that's not like any other school. There's diversity in the student body, it offers amazing AP and IBO (International Baccalaureate) courses, and the teachers really try to challenge the students.

"As an active participant in many of the school's clubs and programs, I see first-hand many of dynamic things that the school offers to students, both in academics and extracurricular programming. And my teachers are always there when I need them. Whether it's after school or by e-mail, they never hesitate to make themselves available."

The achievement:

"Diversity is one of our greatest assets at Albany High School -- not just the diversity of cultures, but also all the different ways of thinking. Albany High has a large exchange student population, and, as a result, I've met a lot of people from different countries. Seeing the different ways people bring their ideas to the table makes the discussions in class that much more meaningful when you have so many diverse opinions and perspectives.

"I feel like the diversity also helps prepare you for the real world. You're going to have to deal with unique situations in college and the working world where people are going to come from all different backgrounds. Instead of automatically dismissing what they say or how they act or think because they're not like you, you appreciate an awareness of the different cultures and different ways of thinking. So you may not agree with everyone, but you will respect where they come from."

Angelena Rouse is a senior at Albany High School where she is student representative to the Board of Education, a member of the speech and debate team, the National Helpers Network, the Albany High Book Club and the Key Club. Last year she was also vice president of the junior class.



**Angelena Rouse, Albany High School,
Class of 2009**