

I champion Albany public schools because...

The opportunity:

“At GE, education is our number-one community interest. In Albany, we wanted to create a model program that would excite young students about science and math. The goal of this program is to develop something transferable that could be replicated in schools and sponsored by businesses throughout the Capital Region.

“We choose to invest in those institutions who have the vision of promise and opportunity. Our experience with the City School District of Albany has been excellent. We have found them extraordinarily willing to try new things, willing to put in extra time, willing to put in the right level of resources, and willing to work across all boundaries in order to seize opportunities.”

The achievement:

“Through this collaborative effort among GE, the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce, the New York State Senate and the City School District of Albany, we created a great foundation – GE Presents ‘Love SAM (Science and Math).’ Young students benefit from enhanced science and math programs. The program provides elementary school teachers with additional tools and resources to spark an early love of learning in youngsters.

“One of the attributes of a great school system is that it can see around corners, look for new ideas, be open to some change and be willing to try things that haven’t been tried before. Albany public schools are very willing and able to partner with institutions that have materials, knowledge, influence and/or financial resources that can assist them in providing better education for our kids.”

Janice Smith joined GE in 1985 as a human resource specialist. Throughout her 22-year career in human resources, she has served as the human resources manager for GE Energy Sourcing, Engineering and the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, as well as a communication specialist and leader. In 1996 Ms. Smith was appointed the manager of GE Energy Communications and Public Affairs, serving as the company’s spokeswoman and being responsible for internal communications, media relations and public affairs across the \$20 billion, 40,000-employee portfolio worldwide. Beginning in 2007, she became director of communications for GE Infrastructure, supporting GE’s vice chairman and seven of GE’s leading industrial businesses.

Ms. Smith has served and continues to serve on a wide variety of boards and committees for nonprofit, arts and economic development organizations throughout the region. She is also a member of the national board of Girls Inc. and is co-chair of the Forum for Executive Women in the Capital Region. Ms. Smith received the 2003 Woman of Achievement award sponsored by the Schenectady YWCA, the 2004 Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce Women of Excellence Distinguished Career award, the 2007 Spirit of the Chamber award from the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce and the 2007 Community of Excellence Award from The College of St. Rose.



Janice A. Smith
Director of Communications
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