

I champion Albany public schools because...

The opportunity:

"Teachers make a tremendous impact on students. When I was a student in the Albany public school system, I knew I wanted to be in education because I knew how much my teachers meant to me, and I wanted to mean that much to other students who come through the system.

"Access to honors and AP classes really allowed me to challenge myself and come to understand that I really could do that work and apply it to any school that I wanted to."

The achievement:

"I went to Princeton University, where I studied public policy, and went on to get my master's degree in education at New York University. I returned to Albany to teach before accepting the position of principal at Sheridan Prep in 2007.

"When I talk to my students – as a teacher before, and as a principal now – I stress the importance of being successful in school because it meant so much to me, and was stressed to me, when I was going through the Albany public school system. What I've always told my students is that being smart isn't just about knowing everything and things coming easily to you. Being smart is about being willing to work hard even when things aren't easy, and that way you can be successful in anything."



**Cecily Wilson, Albany High School, Class of 1995
Principal, Sheridan Preparatory Academy**

Cecily Wilson received her Bachelor of Arts in public affairs from Princeton University in 1999 and her Master of Arts in education from New York University in 2000. After moving back to the Albany area in 2000, Ms. Wilson held teaching positions at Arbor Hill Elementary School through 2007 when she became the principal of Sheridan Preparatory Academy, one of Albany's 12 public elementary schools.

Ms. Wilson is certified as a New York State School District Leader (S.D.L.), District Administrator (S.D.A.), and Building Leader (S.B.L.) and holds permanent Public School Teacher Certification for prekindergarten, kindergarten and grades 1-6. She is also on one of the district's seven Strategic Planning action teams, the Comprehensive District Educational Planning Committee, the Instructional Study Team, the Building Leadership Team and the School Decision Making Committee.