



November 25, 2003

George Albano,
Principal Lincoln Elementary School
170 East Lincoln Avenue
Mount Vernon, NY 10552-3396

Dear Mr. Albano:

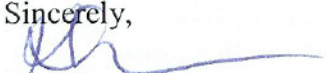
We at the Education Trust want to thank you for helping to make our "Zap the Gap: Learning From the Frontier" conference such a success earlier this month. Participants told us that the most rewarding parts of the conference were the presentations by school and district teams, and yours was outstanding among them.

It was clear from your presentation, "A Culture that Breeds Success," that your leadership at Lincoln Elementary School has ensured a positive school climate that nurtures high student achievement. Your belief in the importance of good teachers is evident through the strategies you shared for recruiting and retaining highly qualified educators. Your video presentation provided a sense of the vibrant learning community you and your team have nurtured. Because of your willingness to share, other educational leaders from around the country now have proof that high achievement for all students is attainable.

Despite budget cuts in education that make travel difficult, we had more than 700 participants this year from school districts, higher education, community organizations and state governments. Participant after participant told us that the schools and districts featured at the conference gave them concrete images of what they could do when they got back home. That was what we hoped for and in your case you provided an excellent model.

We also sincerely thank you for your willingness to participate in our press conference. Your participation helped send a clear message about the importance of high expectations for all children. We are deeply grateful, both for your willingness to be with us, and for the thoughtfulness of your presentation.

Sincerely,


Kati Haycock
Director


Craig Jerald
Principal Partner


Charles Williams
Meetings Manager