

National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

THOMAS O'BRIEN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Lincoln Park
Albany, New York 12202

Telephone: 518-462-7263

FAX: 518-462-7152

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALBANY

Rachelle M. Salerno, Ed.D.
Principal

March 17, 2008

From: Dr. Rachelle Salerno, Principal
Thomas O'Brien Academy for Science & Technology
Albany, NY

Re: Challenger Learning Center

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter with my enthusiastic endorsement of the **Challenger Learning Center for Tech Valley and its capital project.**

When Challenger Learning Center is able to open its doors, its impact on middle school children throughout the region, including our Academy's students, will be dramatic. Using technology, science and math in simulated "space missions" and actually working on mock Space Station and Mission control simulators, our children can *apply* key lessons from our classroom.

Part of our academy's mission is to incorporate learning strategies with hands-on learning to foster curiosity, discovery, observation, problem solving, inquiry and creativity. Challenger Learning Center will be a greater partner in fostering this objective.

As a leader in education, I know you share and foster my belief that Challenger Learning Center for Tech Valley will richly enhance our children's learning and provide this region a valuable tool in the expansion of science, technology and math education opportunities.

Sincerely,



Rachelle M. Salerno, Ed.D.
Principal