



SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOLS

108 Education Drive • Schenectady, New York 12303

Phone (518) 370-8100 • Fax (518) 370-8173

www.schenectady.k12.ny.us

Over 150 Years of Excellence in Education

ADMINISTRATION

Eric D. Ely
Superintendent

Sharon A. Therriault
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum and Instruction

William E. Roberts, Ed.D
Assistant Superintendent for Operations

Michael J. San Angelo, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Business

Arnold A. Spadafora
Associate Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jeff P. Janiszewski, President
Warren R. Snyder, Vice President

Linda Bellick
Maxine J. Brisport
James R. Casino
John F. Mitchell. III

June 21, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Karen Corona
SCSD Communications
370-8100 X-137 858-5610-cell
coronak@schenectady.k12.ny.us

Union College President To Address 6th Graders As They Move On, Move Up

Research Project Connects Kids with Union

(SCHENECTADY) - Union College President Stephen Ainlay will address the 30 sixth graders who are graduating from Yates Magnet Elementary School on **Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 6 p.m.** in the Yates auditorium. The commencement speech will mark the college president's first address to any local school. Ainlay, who will talk to the students about the value of education with a special eye on the importance of perseverance, agreed to speak at the event after receiving a number of letters from the sixth graders inquiring about Union College.

"I am delighted to have this opportunity to speak to Yates School 6th graders," said Ainlay. "I greatly admire the work of their teachers and administrators." He added, "I am honored to have been invited."

Throughout the school year, the Yates sixth graders have been working on a project, "*Colleges We Could Attend*," which is designed to get the students thinking about college at an early age and to start looking at the many possibilities before them.

As part of the long-term project, they researched information about an array of colleges and wrote to those college presidents for answers to their many questions. Union College President Ainlay was among the college leaders who the students were interested to hear from.

According to Yates Principal Valarie Scott, Ainlay replied and made a difference to each child who wrote to the college president.

- More -

.....A national award winning district

Ainlay said last year he received letters from a number of students who expressed interest in pursuing their educational goals at Union College. “Their letters revealed their dreams and pointed to the enormous potential they have to make a difference,” Ainlay added. “I hope that I can convey something of the possibilities that the world of education offers.”

He said he will use examples from Union’s history to help the students see how important it is to stay committed to learning and in school even when it seems difficult to do so. Ainlay cited Charles Steinmetz who overcame personal challenges to emerge as one of the leading scientists of the 20th century, as one example.

Scott said the students are excited that Ainlay accepted their invitation. “When we discussed who to invite to speak,” said Scott, “we all agreed, he was a natural fit.” She added, “I think President Ainlay’s visit sends a strong message about the project and we appreciate that he thinks enough about it to come to Yates.”

“So many times children believe that college is a far off dream,” continued Scott. “We want every child to know that when we say every child can succeed and go to college that it is their choice.”

Ainlay agrees. “It is so important for educators at all levels of instruction to reach out to young people and help them see the choices before them,” he said.

“We are so excited that President Ainlay is sharing the end of our first year of the project,” added Scott. “This gives us inspiration to continue and expand the project next year. “

###

Yates Magnet School is located at 725 Salina Street.