



STATE OF NEW YORK

DAVID A. PATERSON  
GOVERNOR

April 14, 2008

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to send greetings and congratulations to the school leadership at the Julia Richman Educational Complex (JREC) on receiving the prestigious *Richard Riley Award* from the American Architectural Foundation in recognition of the innovative design of your facility that so effectively serves the needs of students and the entire school community.

New Yorkers understand that a quality education can open doors to more successful and fulfilling lives for youth. In working together to ensure the best prospects for our children's future, we recognize that many community-based resources improve opportunities for today's students through enhanced approaches for learning. Thanks to the visionary leaders, board members and administrators at the JREC, a superior environment will certainly add to the quality of education and school life for future generations of students.

The *Richard Riley Award* is a distinction that few schools receive and this milestone in the history of your school will always be remembered by students, faculty and all others involved with this wonderful institution. Furthermore, it reflects the vision and cooperation of many people whose dedicated leadership has made the transformation of JREC into a state-of-the-art educational resource, a reality.

A valuable presence in the New York Metropolitan region – and a true architectural gem – the JREC has all the advantages of a modern facility with spacious surroundings that accommodate the growing needs of students. Serving on the board of the JREC, as well as the board of one of its schools – the Urban Academy – for many years has been a great honor for me. In doing so, I have come to know what a dynamic environment prevails in its bustling hallways, vibrant classrooms, resplendently renovated library and grand auditorium. Most importantly, its tradition-rich history is instilled forever in your socially and academically engaged students from all walks of urban life.

Once again, congratulations on this impressive achievement which stands as a testimony to individuals who understand the importance of educational excellence. Warmest regards and best wishes for continued success to your entire school community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Paterson".

DAVID A. PATERSON

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

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