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Committed To Teaching And Learning.....One Child At A Time

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November 23, 2002

Ron "Cook" Barrett
Senior Gang Prevention Specialist
City of Albany
Department of Youth and Family Services
175 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12206

Dear Mr. Barrett,

On behalf of Bette Ewing, our College of Saint Rose graduate class of school counseling students, and myself, I would like to thank you for sharing with us the truth about gangs in the Capital District and its outlying areas. Your multimedia presentation was not only stimulating, but also sensitizing in that it heightened our awareness as to the nature and extent of gang involvement in this nation.

As helping professionals, school counselors and school psychologists have the training to work with at-risk youth, however, we need more than skills we need understanding. Your presentation helped to provide just that; understanding. You achieved this through candid conversation, graphic photos, and today's music. We praise you for taking on this social issue and would like you to know you are not alone in your fight to reduce gang involvement by providing more positive opportunities for our children and youth. You have the support of both Bette and I and the 20 future educators who listened and truly heard the message you so effectively conveyed. Thank you for sharing, thank you for believing in our youth, and thank you all your efforts to make this a better society.

Sincerely yours,

Michael E Stahl, Ed.D.