

Up Close College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, University at Albany

■ **Who:** Brenda Lubrano-Birken, 37

■ **Where:** 255 Fuller Road, Albany

■ **What's new:** The Alliance of Technology and Women, a national nonprofit organization targeting women and girls for careers in technology, selected Lubrano-Birken to serve on its 11-member board of directors. She will serve with representatives from such tech-based companies as Raytheon Co. and Oracle Corp.

One of the alliance's initiatives is called the Great Minds Program, which helps expose women and girls to opportunities in technology. The national group, which has a Tech Valley chapter, also provides financial assistance to women whose collegiate endeavors include science, math, engineering and technology.

Women occupy only 20 percent of technology-based jobs and sit on 11 percent of the boards of

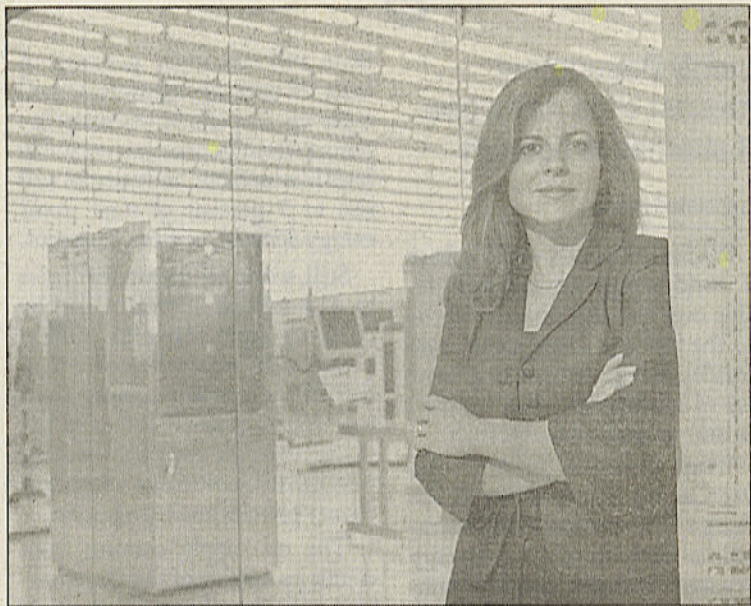
Fortune 500 companies, said ATW's national president, Bettyjo Bouchey, dean of ITT Technical Institute in Colonie. ATW's Mentor Program seeks to increase the pool of women capable of filling those posts.

Lubrano-Birken, who left a private law practice in Albany six months ago to become director of legal services for the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, has been an active supporter of ATW since 2003. She said she's excited about the opportunity to work with the organization.

"I can't believe they asked me and I'm thrilled to make a contribution to an organization that furthers the goals of women.

"I think there definitely is a trend toward more women seeking greater success in technology-related fields. The distinction between men and women in these professions is narrowing."

— Rick Clemenson



PAUL BUCKOWSKI/TIMES UNION

BRENDA LUBRANO-BIRKEN is now a member of the board of the Alliance of Technology and Women, a nonprofit group that targets women and girls for technology careers.