



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF THE YEAR
Dan Marcus | 1977 | Elementary Education
Teacher | Proximity Learning Inc.

Dan Marcus, a graduate of Metropolitan State College (B.A. Elementary Education, May 1977), is currently entering his 45th successive year of teaching this fall. He received his M.A. Degree at the University of Colorado Denver (December 1980) and holds highly qualified endorsements in Secondary Mathematics and Career and Technical Education in Audio, Film and Video Technology, Journalism and Broadcasting.

Dan was nominated for and selected as a finalist for the Wallace A. Bacon Lifetime Teaching Excellence Award in 2017 (NCA, Washington, D.C.), an honor that was featured in Metro's Red Publication *Making the Grade* (Doug McPherson, 8-9-2017). The Wallace A. Bacon Lifetime Teaching Excellence Award was created by the Legislative Council in 1991. The Wallace A. Bacon Lifetime Teaching Excellence Award was designed to recognize that a lifetime of outstanding teaching should be encouraged and recognized.

Dan Marcus has always strived to challenge his students to tackle some of the more challenging and controversial issues of their time. One such project that involved several of Dan's film students writing and producing a public service announcement *You are Beautiful* regarding the issue of eating disorders. Following this film's selection as *Best Middle School PSA* at the *2013 My Hero International Film Festival* (USC Cinematic Arts Center, Los Angeles), Dan and his students were featured on the [NBC Today Show](#) (12/17/2013). To date over 270,000 viewers have watched this [PSA on YouTube](#) and many school districts across the country incorporate this PSA at the middle school level to educate students about the dangers and effects of eating disorders.

The most lasting and memorable legacy of Dan Marcus the lifelong educator is the submission of documented filmed interview recordings by his students of the first-hand recollections of [128 veterans](#) of the U.S. military branches of service, now archived at the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress as part of the Veterans Oral History Project. This project was tackled and completed by students at multiple secondary schools Dan taught at throughout his career. As a result of his student interviews Dan received a letter of commendation from Colorado Congressman Ed Perlmutter (serving the 7th District of Colorado) who initially collaborated with college students at the Auraria Campus in 2008 in an effort to promote the Veterans History Project. Congressman Perlmutter was highly impressed that Dan's middle school students were able to produce their veteran interviews at a level equal to and even in some cases surpassing those submitted by college students.

Dan Marcus was voted "Best Teacher in Elbert County" in 2017 & 2018 by the readers of Colorado Community Media. Dan's mentorship of our youth has extended beyond his work inside the classroom. Dan was selected as *the 2010 Colorado Big Brother of the Year* in recognition of his volunteer work with at-risk youth