



Work in special education earns alum recognition locally, internationally

Philippe Ernewein '94 received international, state and local recognition last year for his efforts in teaching students with learning disabilities. Ernewein, director of education at Denver Academy, received the 2017 Professional of the Year Award from the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities in May 2017. Then in October he was flown to Baltimore to receive the Floyd G. Hudson Service Award from the Council on Learning Disabilities at the 39th International Conference on Learning Disabilities, at which he was a presenter. A few days later, he was honored by Denver's mayor with a proclamation from the city and county of Denver naming Oct. 13 as Philippe Ernewein Day.

"I have never encountered a more passionate, professional and dedicated educator," said Mark Twarogowski, headmaster at Denver Academy, where Ernewein has taught since 1997. The most common disabilities among the 400 students at the independent school (grades 1-12) are dyslexia and attention issues. In addition to his current position, which he has held since 2013, Ernewein has been dean of faculty, a division head and a classroom teacher.

A native of Belgium who immigrated to the U.S. at age 8, he decided on his career field after serving as a special education teacher in the Teach for America program—the first Longwood alum to do so— from 1994-96 at a disadvantaged high school in New Orleans. A presenter at national conferences and workshops, Ernewein has a master's degree from the University of Colorado.