

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #110 (2007-2008)

November 12, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF ALASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST, DAN SPARKMAN

ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by continuing to retain, recruit and train highly qualified staff.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The wizard of Radio and Television Production at the King Career Center is **Dan Sparkman**, a finalist for the title of **2008 Alaska Teacher of the Year**. Through his commitment to excellence, integrative approach to teaching, and community connections, Dan has made Radio and Television Production one of the most exciting and creative classes in the district.

Dan has spent 20 years in ASD as a special education and vocational education teacher. He is also on the adjunct faculty for the University of Alaska Anchorage and Alaska Pacific University, and teaches staff development courses for ASD personnel through Colorado State University. Dan has won statewide honors before, having been named Industrial/Technology Teacher of the Year by the Alaska Association of Career and Technical Education in 2005. He is also listed in the 2006 edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers."

Reacting to negative news coverage of Anchorage teens, Dan developed a weekly television show featuring all the good things teens do in their schools and communities. The series, "Kids Can, and You Can, Too," was aired on KAKM public television. The response motivated Dan to create a second show, the "Sourdough Joe Show" aimed at elementary-age children.

A statewide team will select the Alaska Teacher of the Year this month, but his students and co-workers already know Dan is a winner. This is a request to join them in congratulating Dan Sparkman on his outstanding achievements as an educator and for being a finalist in the Alaska Teacher of the Year recognition program.

CC/ME/TW

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