

Dan Berger '93

Property Management Executive

When Dan Berger first came to Benchmark his previous school experiences were much like those of many Benchmark students: struggling to read, falling behind in class, and low in confidence. “I remember being the only kid in my class who not only could not read; I did not even know the alphabet!” Dan said. “But luckily, my parents knew that I needed special attention. I am very fortunate that they intervened and sent me to Benchmark.”

Today, as the successful president of Berger Rental Properties—an award-winning multifamily apartment owner and management company founded by his father and uncle in 1972—it is hard to imagine that Dan ever struggled as a child. If you ask Dan, his successes are the result of an incredible amount of persistence, dedication, and self-confidence—characteristics that were developed during his time at Benchmark School. “I have no idea where I would be today without Benchmark. Benchmark was pivotal not only to my professional successes, but it truly shaped every aspect of who I am today,” Dan said.

At Benchmark, Dan came to understand how he learns best, which helped him to develop confidence in himself and his abilities. “Benchmark gave me the tools and resources to overcome any obstacle I faced,” he said. “When I first came to Benchmark, my self-confidence was very low and I felt that everyone else was smarter. But when I left Benchmark, I was a very confident young adult and this confidence has remained with me.”

Armed with the self-confidence he gained at Benchmark, Dan saw no

limits for himself. In fact, before joining the family business, he pursued a challenging educational and professional journey. After Benchmark, Dan attended The Shipley School, and then graduated from Boston University with degrees in finance and organizational development. Continuing his education, Dan attended Temple University School of Law and Fox School of Business, where he earned joint JD and MBA degrees. However, after being admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, he decided to join Berger Rental Properties rather than pursue a law career. After several years of transitioning through various positions within the company, he became president in 2010 and is now responsible for all aspects of property management as well as acquisitions, dispositions, and financing.

Under Dan’s leadership, Berger Rental Properties has experienced a tremendous amount of growth and is a thriving leader in the rental property market. Dan was awarded the Philadelphia Business Journal 40 Under 40 Award in 2016, and the company has won numerous other awards as well. Dan said the award he is most proud of was being named as one of the “Top 25 Best Places to Work” in the multifamily housing industry across the country by the Multifamily Leadership group. “I am incredibly proud of my employees and the intentional company culture that we have built around trust, positivity, family, integrity, and results,” he said.

Along with the goal of continuing to expand Berger Rental Properties, Dan continues to challenge himself to grow personally and professionally. Dan



says he is “passionate about educating, coaching, and mentoring others to help them be their best and achieve their dream.” He is even considering complementing his career at Berger with teaching at a high school or college. Dan certainly has no intention of slowing down. He believes that his “shoot-for-the-moon” mentality has a lot to do with the fact that “Benchmark provided me with the tools and resources to learn and instilled a strong work ethic so that I learned to trust myself, my abilities, and my aptitude.” In addition to self-confidence, he credits Benchmark for his “healthy self-esteem” and providing him with “the courage to rise to new challenges, seize opportunities, deal with difficult decisions, be passionate about my values and beliefs despite outside influences, and to be a leader.”

What’s more is that Dan has accepted—and loves—who he is as a person. “I used to think of my learning difference with a negative connotation because my learning difference caused me to work a lot harder than I would have had to do if I was a typical learner,” Dan said. “I now look at it in the completely opposite way; I appreciate my learning difference and look at it positively. Through my learning difference and my experience at Benchmark, I have an advantage over my peers. There is no substitute for hard work, dedication, and passion—all of which were taught at Benchmark.”

In addition to work, Dan says he cherishes his time with his children—Isabella (7) and Hudson (4), and his wife Ashly, and enjoys traveling and long-distance running. 

“ Benchmark gave me the tools and resources to overcome any obstacle I faced... ”

—Dan Berger '93
