



A Brooklyn native, Michael De Vito, Jr. was raised in Willowbrook in Staten Island. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at the age of 17 during his senior year at St. Peter's Boys High School. While on active duty, he used the GI Bill to obtain a BA in Asian Studies and continued undergraduate studies towards a second BA in English while assuming leadership of the Eat Write Café/Traveling Poets' Society – a bimonthly live poetry reading and magazine.

Upon separation from service as a Staff Sergeant in 1999, Michael remained in Okinawa to work as a private contractor while matriculating towards a Master's in Education. He interrupted his studies in 2005 to return to Staten Island, and began his career with the NY Center for Interpersonal Development as a Personal Advocate for the Staten Island Young

Adult Borough Center at Staten Island Tech, ultimately becoming Director for the YABC Program at Tottenville HS. Through that post, and his current appointment as Senior Director of Workforce Initiatives (overseeing the YABC program for Staten Island and Olympus Academy in Brooklyn), he has mentored over 2000 "at-risk" students through the successful completion of their high school diplomas and on to the next phases of adult success.

In July 2010, he returned to running upon quitting a two-pack-a-day cigarette habit and, excelling at the sport, began coaching for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training. He quickly became a sub-three-hour marathoner and obtained a Level 1 certification through USA Track & Field. He is Staten Island's current Triple Crown Winner, an accomplishment attained at the age of 43, and is an American Master. Michael continues to coach and mentor new and competitive runners to this day.

He earned his NYS Teaching Certification in English Language Arts (grades 7-12) in 2012 after additional graduate studies in New York and substitute teaching throughout Staten Island's High Schools. Michael created a Professional Development curriculum focused on professional leadership and essential skills in which NYCID student interns participate as an elective course for high school diploma completion, and is the lead teacher of this curriculum at YABC. He is the current chair of the Youth WINS partnership, a collaboration of Staten Island organizations in the business and nonprofit sectors who aim to create pathways to gainful employment for Staten Island's young adults.

Michael is a member of the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals, Learning to Work Coalition, Occupy the Block and the TYSA (Tackling Youth Substance Abuse) steering committee. His short story, *Melody*, was published in 2014 in an anthology edited by Chuck Pahlaniuk (*Burnt Tongues*, Medallion Press). He is in the NYS Veterans' Hall of Fame, is a West Brighton Kiwanian, and a Democratic candidate for Congress for New York's 11th District.