



North Carolina Dance Institute Students & Parents,

Welcome to North Carolina Dance Institute. We look forward to getting to know many of the new families who have registered this year. We would like to give a few updates on our studio, alumni, teachers and our upcoming important dates. We're very proud of our reputation, the success of our former students, and the involvement of our teachers in the community.

Congratulations to our NCDI alumni who have continued to pursue their passions for dance. Robert Hartwell is performing with the National Tour of *Motown* with a stop at the DPAC in 2015. He dropped in last spring for a Musical Theatre Dance Intensive, teaching choreography from the Broadway shows *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Cinderella*, and *Motown*. Bree Branker made her Broadway debut in *Big Fish*. Grady Bowman has been nominated for the Capezio Choreography Award and is in the Broadway Show *Honeymoon in Vegas* starring Tony Danza. Emily Nicolaou is

touring the world, dancing with the Danish Dance Theatre. The company performed in NYC at The Joyce. Lindsey Matheis is performing with the Northwest Dance Project and producing shows in the Portland area. All of these NCDI alumni trained at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. As a graduate of UNCSA and a former honorary member of the UNCSA Board of Trustees, I know these students receive the best dance training in the country. For parents looking to their child's future training, UNCSA offers free tuition for NC residents (www.uncsa.edu). NCDI graduates are dancing in top university dance programs such as Michigan, Princeton, Northwestern, Elon College, Arizona State University, and UNCG. We wish many of our departing alumni good luck in their first year of college, and congrats to Eli Hooker for being accepted into UNCSA for the high school Contemporary Program.

NCDI teachers are engaged within the community and beyond through dance. NCDI faculty have choreographed and taught master classes at Broughton, Enloe, Cardinal Gibbons, Cary Academy, St. Mary's, Ligon Arts Magnet, Duke University (Momentum Ensemble) and William Peace University. NCDI's ballet program continues to grow and we are excited about the development of our faculty and students. Ronnie West's contemporary hip-hop dance company, Black Irish, performed NOISE this past summer and many NCDI dancers were featured in the show. Kirstie continues to be on the guest faculty for the Carolina Ballet Summer Intensive. We wish Margot Martin a fond farewell as she is moving to Texas. Meredith Hibbits will welcome a baby girl, Keller, in August.

Carolina Ballet will hold auditions for its annual *Nutcracker*. See the board for details. Gage Gordon will reprise his role as the Young Prince. More information about classes, news, and upcoming performances is available on our website, www.ncdanceinstitute.com. Stay connected with posts, cool pictures, and videos by visiting our Facebook group page, [NC Dance Institute](#).

We thank our students and parents for choosing NCDI for the past 13 years. After all, we are a very different choice from the market model of dance studio instruction. We do not focus on costly recitals or enter into expensive, time-consuming dance competitions. Our focus is on the development of the individual dancer through technical applications and exposure to a variety of choreography. We hope to shape dancers who are educated, creative, and technically proficient. Our classrooms are filled with young artists who are enjoying their journey in dance education. We value our students and parents who trust their arts education in our hands. NCDI strives to advance the role of the arts as a powerful catalyst in shaping young people to make smart decisions about their physical and mental health, and to prioritize their goals for their futures. *A dream without action is a wish*. We look forward to an exciting action-packed year of dance at North Carolina Dance Institute. For the thousands of dancers who have taken classes at NCDI, we thank you for your energy. For the thousands of parents who have watched their children work hard and dance with joy, we thank you. We are now accepting new students. Please continue to spread the word about NCDI to your friends and neighbors and help our studio grow.

Thank you,
Kirstie Spadie
NCDI Artistic Director