

North Carolina Dance Institute Students & Parents,

We would like to share 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* and writing and starring in Broadway Quick Change design shows. Grady Bowman was recently in the Broadway hit show *Honeymoon in Vegas* starring Tony Danza. Grady is now the Associate Director for *In Your Arms*, a new project by Chris Gatelli (Tony Award Winner for *Newsies*). Emily Nicolaou is touring the world, dancing with the Danish Dance Theatre. Lindsey Matheis is dancing with the cutting edge dance company, BODYTRAFFIC, based in California. All of these NCDI alumni also 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 outstanding training at UNCSA. For parents looking to their child's future training, UNCSA offers free tuition for NC residents (www.uncsa.edu). Congrats to NCDI dancer, Eli Hooker who will begin his senior year of high school at UNCSA. NCDI Dancer, Dylan Parton has been accepted for the UNCSA BFA Contemporary Program.

Our 2015 Summer Showcase featured 50 of NCDI's best dancers ages 9 to 18 years in an exciting performance of the iconic musical genius of Elton John in "*Your Songs*". Photos from the showcase are on our Facebook page. Dancers are selected by audition only. NCDI may not do recitals but we produce great shows in the summer with no costume costs to parents. We strive to keep parents costs low and place emphasis on the students' involvement on the collaborative, creative process of creating new dance works.

You will notice some new renovations around NCDI! Our supportive landlord, Mr. Richard Hibbits, helped to redesign our space and helped with our renovations. We are grateful for his support of our growing business and his dedication to making Duraleigh Corners a safe and inviting space for our students.

Last winter, many young NCDI dancers were in Carolina Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. NCDI dancer Gage Gordon reprised his role as the Young Prince. Tillie Spoor was featured in an awesome article in the News & Observer about her experience as a Party Girl. Rachael Pope and Kaitlin Szulik are featured dancers in Theatre in the Park's *A Christmas Carol*. More information, news and upcoming performances are available on our website at www.ncdanceinstitute.com. Stay connected with posts, cool pictures, and videos by joining our Facebook group page at [NC Dance Institute](#).

We thank our students and parents for choosing NCDI for the past 14 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. 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