



UNITY Defining the Master Teacher

Created and endorsed by Associated Dance Teachers of New Jersey, Cicci Dance Supply, Chicago National Association of Dance Masters, Curtain Call, Dance Alliance of Rhode Island, Dance Masters of New England, Dance Masters of Wisconsin, Dance Media, Dance Teachers Association of Virginia, Dance Teachers' Club of Boston, Dancewear Corner, Florida Dance Masters, More Than Just Great Dancing, National Dance Education Organization, National Dance Week, National Registry of Dance Educators, New York State Dance Education Association, Rhee Gold Company, Southern Association of Dance Masters and Tennessee Association of Dance, The Andrea Rizzo Foundation, The Dancers Answer, United Dance Merchants of America

Objective: The term “master teacher” is used with a broad stroke to describe all guest teachers and/or convention teachers within the dance education field. To avoid over-generalization – use the following differentiating categories:

Given the diversity of educational practices and genres within the dance field, and the many opportunities for engagement with dance educators and students the balance among these definitions of a master teacher may vary. The qualities we use as definition include the following:

A master teacher:

- has deep and reflective knowledge of the history of and body mechanics of the established teaching techniques of the genre being taught
- has an expert ability to communicate complex concepts and techniques and the willingness, desire and ability to effectively pass it on
- establishes educational strategies that can serve as a model for others
- initiates innovations and improvements, while honoring established dance technique

- plans and delivers effective instruction that advances the learning of all students
- accepts feedback from learners and peers to modify teaching materials, leadership style, or curriculum
- continually assesses and evaluates their personal teaching practice to establish improved learning outcomes for students
- creates a learning environment that engages learners in dialog, promotes high levels of learning for all students and creates an atmosphere of civility and success
- serves the dance education field with active participation in and contribution to local, regional, and national dance education organizations, conferences, conventions, and events
- continues professional growth, always improving teaching skills and knowledge of the teaching craft
- maintains high ethical standards regarding responsibility to the dance community and the profession
- demonstrates excellence in and out of the classroom with consistent leadership and professional standards in teaching

Celebrity Teacher

Well-known figure in dance who may or may not have extensive practice as a teacher, who brings expertise based on their experience.