UNITY Defining the Master Teacher

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

www.unitydance.org
• 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.