Independent Sector Mentorship Program - Cohort #1 Application

Deadline to Apply is Monday, July 31, 2023

Thank you for your interest in the Independent Sector Mentorship Program (ISMP). This program serves as a support system for independent sector teachers and studio owners with fewer than five years of experience (mentees) in the field of dance education. The program also provides those with five or more years of experience in the Independent Sector (mentors) an opportunity to share their experience and lend guidance to these emerging dance educators. In addition, the ISMP offers collaborative mentorship opportunities for those interested in cooperative learning.

Mentorship pairings will be matched in terms of similarities in job attributes, strengths and areas for growth, teaching philosophy and goals. Both mentor and mentee should plan for a two year commitment, however it may continue and grow in an alternate form for as long as the participants wish. Please read and indicate your acceptance of the terms below to continue with this process:

Each mentor/mentee will need to agree to the following guidelines if selected:

● 2 year commitment
● Maintain a current NDEO membership
● Review the training powerpoint presentations and webinars provided
● Set goals and expectations with mentor/mentee
● Communicate with mentor/mentee partner ideally weekly (minimum twice a month)
● Complete and submit monthly log reports
● Utilize Basecamp for communication
● Attend 4 Zoom meetings a year

To honor the time and commitment of all participants, a mentor or mentee may be excused from the program if unable to fulfill these expectations.*

Yes, I read it and understand.

Please answer the following questions to be considered in the Cohort #1 selection process.

1. Best Email to reach you at:

2. Best phone number to reach you at:

MEMBERSHIP AND INTEREST

3. Do you have a current NDEO Membership? You must be a current Member in order to be matched with a mentor or mentee. To Join NDEO go to www.ndeo.org/Membership/Join *

Yes

No
Not yet, but will be joining soon

4. How many years have you been teaching dance in the Independent Sector (this may include years as an independent teacher or studio owner/administrator)?*

5. In the space below, describe your current role as a dance educator as it relates to the Independent Sector. If you teach dance in other settings, add that as well.*

6. What area of the ISMP meets your needs? Are you interested in becoming a*
   Mentor (Mentors must have 5 or more years of dance teaching experience in the Independent Sector)
   Mentee (Mentees must have fewer than 5 years of dance teaching experience in the Independent Sector)

7. If eligible, would you be interested in a Collaborative Mentoring Partnership (CMP)? CMPs are for dance educators with over 5 years of experience in the Independent Sector who are seeking to be paired with a colleague.*
   No, I am not eligible at this time (fewer than 5 years experience)
   Yes, I am interested in a Collaborative Mentoring Partnership if there are no Mentorship opportunities available
   Yes, I am seeking placement in a Collaborative Mentoring Partnership

8. What do you see as the benefits of participating in a mentoring partnership? Please share your insights in terms of what the mentor will gain, what the mentee will gain and what you see as beneficial in collaborative or continuing education partnerships.*

**TEACHING PHILOSOPHY AND EXPERIENCE**

9. In the space below, please share an overview of your teaching experience in dance across all sectors.*

10. Please share your teaching philosophy specific to dance education below. Your teaching philosophy is an overarching description that is not limited to the Independent Sector.*

11. What is the role of dance education in the Independent Sector and what do you believe are the responsibilities of those who teach this population of dance students?*

12. What are your strengths as a dance educator or studio owner? Please respond with your three top strengths and elaborate on those characteristics.*

13. What do you see as your areas for growth as a dance educator or studio owner? Please respond with your top three areas of growth and elaborate on the needs in those areas.*

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
14. In the space below, please provide your personal dance education history related to your preK, elementary, and secondary years. Share your initial training journey, any influential workshops or summer programs that you attended, apprenticeships. (If you began your dance training later in life, what sports or extracurricular interests were a part of your youth?)*

15. In the space below, please provide your personal dance education history related to your post-secondary years and professional work prior to or in tandem with becoming a dance teacher.*

16. In the space below, please share any special certifications or dance-related training that supplement your work with students in the Independent Sector. If you hold a state teacher certification in dance for K-12, please indicate in this space.*

17. Are you currently enrolled in an educational program such as undergraduate or graduate education in dance, NDEO’s OPDI, or a certification program specific to or related to dance? Please explain and share where you are in the program and how many months/years are projected until completion.*

18. If you are taking or have completed courses in NDEO’s OPDI, please list them below. If you have not taken a course to date, but are interested, please indicate that as well.

**CURRENT TEACHING ENVIRONMENT**

19. How many students are there in the dance program or studio setting where you teach? If you teach in more than one setting, share this information for each location. If you freelance and this does not apply specifically, please explain your typical setting. You may estimate numbers, of course.*

20. In the space below, describe the expected educational outcomes of the dance program or studio setting where you teach. For example, is the program focused on the creative process? Is it a pre-professional training program? Is it a competition studio?

21. In the space below, please share information about your current teaching schedule, the genres you teach and frequency.*

22. In the space below, please share information about class length, average class size and the levels of students you teach.*

23. In the space below, please share information about the supervisory relationships, professional development opportunities and accountability in your current setting/s. For example, are you involved in monthly or quarterly staff meetings? Are you observed and evaluated (if teaching)? Do you require or provide continuing professional development (if studio owner)?*

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND GOALS**
24. In the space below, describe your overarching feelings, most days, about your current role in dance education. How do you feel about yourself, your work, your growth, your accomplishments, and your impact on others?*

25. What areas of your current position do you find the most challenging?*

26. What areas of your current position do you find the most rewarding?*

27. What are your goals for your future in dance education? What can you predict about the next five years? Please include aspirations in teaching, advanced education, certifications, and/or leadership.*

28. In the space below, provide any additional information that you feel the committee should know about you personally or professionally that impacts your role in this program.

**DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS**

The following optional questions help provide NDEO with a baseline understanding of the demographics of our membership. We hope to use this data to set and pursue goals and objectives around diversity, equity, inclusion and access. We believe that a fuller and more accurate understanding of who we serve is crucial to organizational growth and to serving our members and the field better.

29. What is your Age?
   22 and Under
   23 - 29
   30 - 39
   40 - 49
   50 - 59
   60 - 69
   70 +
   Prefer Not to Say

30. Which of the following best describes the area in which you teach? Check the one best answer.
   Urbanized Areas (UAs) of 50,000 or more people
   Urban Clusters (UCs) of at least 2,500 and less than 50,000 people
   Rural, encompassing all population, housing, and territory not included within an Urban Area or Urban Cluster

31. Race / Ethnicity
   American Indian/Alaskan Native
   Asian
   Black/African American
   Hispanic/Latino/Spanish Origin
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
White
Prefer to Self Describe

32. Gender
Man
Woman
Non-Binary / Third Gender
Prefer Not to Say
Prefer to Self Describe

33. Transgender is an umbrella term that refers to people whose gender identity, expression or behavior is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth. Other identities considered to fall under this umbrella can include non-binary, gender fluid, and genderqueer - as well as many more. Do you identify as transgender?
Yes
No
Prefer Not to Say
Prefer to Self Describe

34. With which sexual orientation do you most identify?
Heterosexual
Bisexual/Pansexual
Gay/Lesbian
Queer
Prefer Not to Say
Prefer to Self Describe

35. Please indicate which of the following best describes your current disability status:
I identify as disabled.
I don't yet identify as disabled but I have a chronic illness.
I don't currently identify as disabled.
Prefer Not to Say