

 **ndeo National Dance Education Conference**

SYNERGY

**Uniting to Progress the
Field of Dance Education**

9.24.2026 - 9.27.2026

Albuquerque, NM



[NDEO.ORG/CONFERENCE](https://ndeo.org/conference)

Join Us in Albuquerque, NM

Join us in person at NDEO's 2026 National Conference for three full days of over 250 movement workshops, master classes, panel and paper presentations, social events and performances. A full day of pre-conference intensives precedes the official start of Conference.

Who Should Attend

This conference provides professional development for dance teachers across all teaching environments and genres, as well as college students studying dance or dance education. There is something for everyone with 12+ sessions offered for every time block.

Online Registration – the Only Way!

The only way to register is online on our website. We are not offering paper registration forms. Each person who registers will need to have an account on our website. If you are a current NDEO member log in to your membership account to access discounted rates. If you are a Non-Member you will have to create a free account on our website before registering.

QR Code for Intensives Information and to Register



Registration URL: ndeo.org/conference

Conference Lodging (Two options to choose from)

Discounted Room Rates - ndeo.org/conferencehotels

The Clyde Hotel

330 Tijeras NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

- \$199++/ night
- Parking: \$15 a day
- Waived amenity fee
- Discounted rates are available through Monday, August 24, 2026 or until rooms sell out, whichever comes first.

Hotel Andaluz Albuquerque

- Curio Collection by Hilton
125 Second Street NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

- \$184 ++/night
- Hotel Andaluz is a small historic property and has limited availability. If you would like to stay here, please book early.
- Waived amenity fee.
- Discounted rates are available through Monday, August 31, 2026 or until rooms sell out, whichever comes first.

FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

NDEO Member Pricing

- Early Bird (available through 6/1) \$440
- Regular (available 6/2-8/31). \$490
- Late (available 9/1 - conference) \$540

NDEO Student Member Pricing

Eligible for NDEO Undergraduate and Graduate Student Members. These special discounted prices are available through 8/31/26.

- Student who attends a university/college that is an NDEO Institutional Member \$200
- Student who does not attend NDEO institutional member school. \$250

Student rate is not available after 8/31/26

NDEO Member One-Day Pricing

- Early Bird (available through 6/1) \$225
- Regular (available 6/2-8/31). \$250
- Late (available 9/1 - conference) \$275

Non-Member Full Conference Pricing

Non-Member One-Day Rates Not Available

- Early Bird (available through 6/1) \$540
- Regular (available 5/31 - 9/2) \$590
- Late (available 9/3 - conference) \$640

Pre-Conference Intensives on Thurs., Sept. 24

Make your plans to be in Albuquerque on Thursday, September 24th to partake in the deep dives into specialized content our pre-conference intensives provide! Scan QR on the left to learn more. Pricing ranges from \$35-\$90 per intensive.

Refund Policy

- No refunds after 8/31/26. Email conference@ndeo.org to cancel.
- 90% refund through 7/31/26
- 75% refund 8/2/26-8/31/26

CEUs or Certificate of Attendance (COA)

All conference registrants who attend the conference are eligible to claim CEUs and/or a COA after the conference on the NDEO website if their employer requires it as proof of professional development. Make sure to keep track of all the sessions you attended using the app or the conference schedule. Downloadable PDF file of Certificate \$0

Transfer Policy

Transferring registration from one person to another after payment incurs the following fees.

- \$25 fee through 8/31/26
- \$50 fee 9/1/26-9/21/26
- **No transfers after 9/21/26**

Person receiving the transferred registration must have an NDEO membership to receive a member rate and an NDEO Student membership to receive a student rate. NDEO membership is not transferrable.

Email conference@ndeo.org to request a transfer.

To register online, please visit: ndeo.org/conference

Thursday, September 24 Pre-Conference Intensives

Pricing ranges from \$35-\$90 per intensive

Intensives are 2-3 hours each

Off-Site Intensives

1. Bus Tour Exploring K-12 School Dance Programs in New Mexico

Facilitated by Liz Salganek and the Albuquerque Site Committee **\$90**

Bus tour; transportation and box lunch provided. **8:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Welcome to Albuquerque! Educators will have the opportunity to see a variety of K-12 New Mexico dance programs in three different local schools. Albuquerque schools on the tour include public charter schools built around the performing and visual arts; schools that work through the arts-integration model; and schools that combine dance education through partnerships with dance outreach programs and contract teaching artists who work within the school day. Dance education in Albuquerque schools includes such styles as jazz, musical theater, hip hop, ballet, as well as local cultural dance traditions such as Folklorico and Flamenco. Please join us to witness the incredible dance education programs in the state! The tour includes bus transportation and a box lunch.

Registration deadline: August 15, 2026

3. Flamenco Workshop

Presented by Deanna Encinias **\$50**

Hosted by the National Institute of Flamenco (transportation provided)

8:30 am - 11:30 pm

In this workshop we will discover the history of flamenco, explore musical rhythms, analyze traditional flamenco songs, learn a basic dance, and explore how the art form comes together. Flamenco shoes are welcome, although not necessary. Come with a hard-soled shoe with a wide heel, or even tennis shoes. ¡Olé!

Registration deadline: August 15, 2026

On-Site Intensives

2. Your Leadership Voice: Finding + Amplifying It

Presented by Stephanie Simpson, Deborah Damast,

Yoav Kaddar, and Elizabeth Kattner

\$65

Box lunch provided.

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

SYNERGY calls us to unite in order to progress the field of dance education. But meaningful unity does not require sameness. It requires leaders who are clear in their voice, grounded in their values, and skilled in how they collaborate across sectors and generations. This full-day pre-conference intensive invites multi-generational dance leaders to clarify their unique leadership voice and strengthen the tools needed to sustain and amplify it. Through reflection, embodied exploration, leadership skill-building, and facilitated "Solution Rooms," we will connect personal insight to collective action. Throughout the day, we will explore leadership as a verb—a way of being that is not tied to title, but expressed through how we collaborate, communicate, and partner with those around us. We will identify the qualities and habits that shape impactful dance leaders and practice practical tools such as coaching-based listening, values-aligned decision-making, and collaborative problem-solving. You will leave with a refined personal Leadership Voice Statement, concrete next steps for advancing your work, and a clear intention for how you will engage the conference experience. Dance is our shared language. Leadership is how we shape its future.

**Session timeline will be available to participants closer to the date.

Registration deadline: August 15, 2026

4. Hypermobility: its impact on balance and learning

Presented by Allegra Romita and Nancy Romit

\$40

9:00 - 11:00 am

What is hypermobility? Hypermobility is often confused with flexibility and dancers may describe it as hyperextended knees, double jointed elbows or fingers, or loose ankles. This session will explore hypermobility and its impact on how a student learns and executes movement. By understanding how your students with hypermobility process movement, it will enable you to cultivate more inclusive spaces for all of your students. This intensive will provide creative solutions to improve stability and resilience in action through Functional Awareness® (FA). FA® is a somatic practice that integrates functional anatomy and motor learning to develop student-centered pedagogical strategies for all students to thrive. Allegra and Nancy Romita will define hypermobility syndrome, describe what it entails, and discuss how understanding it supports movement potential in our students. You will learn and practice a series of specific verbal, auditory, visual, tactile, and proprioceptive strategies to broaden the pathways for success for all movement learners – especially your students with hypermobility.

5. Tactile Feedback Techniques

Presented by Donna Dragon

\$50

11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Touch or tactile feedback as pedagogy in teaching dance has long been used in dance programs in different contexts. Given the widespread use of touch as a tool in teaching dance and its increasing scrutiny for lacking student consent; potential for misuse; and psychological and professional risks, this session investigates the question, "Where do dance teachers learn tactile feedback techniques?". When used properly, thoughtfully, and skillfully, tactile feedback techniques can serve as powerful, immediate and sometimes needed pedagogic strategies that can enhance students' proprioception; body systems awareness (e.g. musculoskeletal and nervous systems); and kinesthetic awareness (e.g. body part initiation/relationships; core support; alignment; and spatial awareness, etc.). This 3-hour workshop bridges gaps between theoretical guidelines and dance classroom applications by addressing the questions such as the following: What is tactile feedback?; How do we identify when tactile feedback may be useful for a dancer?; What specific hand-on cues for tactile feedback can we employ to engage selected anatomical systems?; Where do we apply tactile feedback with a body?; What are issues with student consent for tactile feedback?; What are alternatives to tactile feedback? Through a variety of learning methods including discussing, reflecting, hands-on learning, observing, and collaborating, you will learn the purposes of tactile feedback and its roles in dance education; practical applications; tangible techniques; communication skills; and alternatives to tactile feedback to foster a teaching/learning environment that values autonomy and interpersonal respect.

6. Concept to Classroom:

Create–Teach–Reflect with Language of Dance®

Presented by Elena Anderson, orchestrated by Susan Gingrasso, Shana Habel, and Jocelyn Lofton

\$50

11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Language of Dance® educators have partnered with Albuquerque dance educator Elana Anderson, Ph.D., to offer an inspiring experience that celebrates creating, teaching, and dancing ideas from distinct movement vocabularies. Working with only six LOD Movement Alphabet concepts, Dr. Anderson will guide the choreographic process and share her approach to making and teaching material within clear parameters. She will teach phrases that reflect her style and discuss how these specific Movement Alphabet concepts shaped her choices as an artist and educator. Participants will explore, create, share, and reflect on how diverse voices can spark innovation, inspiration, and meaningful progress across dance learning environments.

7. Social-Emotional Learning through Literature and Dance

Presented by Kelly Stokes

\$40

12:00 - 2:00 pm

In the current school milieu, classroom and special area teachers face new challenges regarding student behavior. In addition to a decline in student learning in reading and math, educators have discovered that students lack basic skills in areas such as civility, kindness, conflict resolution, and self-management. The synergy of dance movement with Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) offers a unique bridge to develop many of these skills. You will experience a series of literature-based dance lessons that explore SEL concepts such as personal space, resilience, mindfulness, and kindness. This intensive will also cover topics such as social-emotional development, effective collaboration strategies, and interdisciplinary approaches. Lessons covered in this intensive were originally aimed at grades K-2 but can be applicable and adapted to any grade/age group and to those with disabilities.

8. The House Ecosystem: Groove, Footwork, and Flow

Presented by Ryan McMullen

\$35

12:30 - 2:00 pm

House dance is a living ecosystem built on the synergy of rhythm, community, and individual expression. In this high-energy movement session, we explore the foundational elements of House—the Groove (The Jack), Footwork, and Flow (Lofting)—through the lens of regional Philly-style foundations. Moving beyond rote choreography, this workshop focuses on the "connective tissue" between social dance origins and formal studio/academic training. We will navigate the intricate syncopations of House footwork and the fluid, floor-oriented transitions of lofting, learning how these elements "orchestrate" a complete dancer. Whether you are looking to diversify your K-12 curriculum or enhance a university-level street dance course, you will leave this intensive with a pedagogical toolkit rooted in authentic House culture and the communal spirit of the "Synergy Circle."

9. Liturgical Dance: Movement for Mind, Body, and Soul

Presented by María Daniel

\$40

3:00 - 5:00 pm

This workshop invites educators, scholars, dancers and practitioners to explore how Liturgical Dance, a sacred African-

Diaspora tradition, can serve as a powerful interdisciplinary framework that progresses the field of dance education. In this intensive, you will engage in "mind, body, and soul" movement explorations that encourage dancers to interpret the deep messages of sacred traditions while creating powerful opportunities for storytelling and healing. Liturgical Dance emphasizes polyrhythms, call-and-response, purposeful expression, communal connections, improvisation, and sacred movements. This session focused on psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs illustrates how culturally rooted traditions can coexist within contemporary academic spaces. In fact, sacred movement practices can enrich curricula across K-12 and higher education by strengthening interdisciplinary connections between dance, music, history, theology, and social-emotional learning. Liturgical Dance techniques and purposeful choreographic strategies can equip educators with tools to guide students in translating psalms, hymns and spiritual songs into purposeful expression. This process fosters critical thinking, cultural literacy, emotional intelligence, and kinesthetic awareness which reflect core competencies in advancing dance education. Through collective exploration, dialogue and communal embodiment, we progress the field of dance education while affirming the rich and historical traditions of African-Diaspora Dance.

10. Emotional Adulthood: Beyond Appropriateness

Presented by Neo Lynch

\$45

3:00 - 5:30 pm

This intensive introduces emotional adulthood as a critical yet underexamined issue in youth dance education, particularly within competitive studio culture. While conversations around hypersexualization and costuming have gained traction, far less attention has been given to the emotional labor demanded of young dancers through choreography centered on adult themes such as grief, trauma, addiction, depression, suicide, and romantic intimacy. This session examines how emotional adulthood operates across genres—including lyrical, contemporary, jazz, and hip-hop—and how it is often normalized through Eurocentric aesthetic values. We will explore how children are frequently asked to embody emotional narratives they have not yet developmentally experienced, raising ethical, pedagogical, and equity-based concerns. Through structured analysis, facilitated discussion, and applied choreographic exercises, you will: Identify emotional adulthood in choreography, music selection, and performance expectations; Examine how race, genre, and aesthetic bias influence what is deemed "appropriate" or "artistic"; Distinguish between age-appropriate emotional expression and adult emotional projection; Practice alternative choreographic and pedagogical strategies that honor youth development while maintaining artistic rigor. This session is designed to support educators across all sectors who are seeking language, frameworks, and tools to advocate for ethical creative practices, especially within competitive environments where emotional intensity is often rewarded. You will leave with a practical toolkit for assessing emotional appropriateness, reframing choreographic intent, and fostering emotionally sustainable learning environments that align with culturally conscious and developmentally informed teaching practices.

On-Site Intensives (cont.)

11. Dance 2050: A Collaborative Working Session

Presented by Kelly Lester and Jessie Levey

\$45

3:00 - 5:30 pm

This intensive session will engage participants in the application and amplification of the Dance 2050 Vision Statement. We will revisit the original vision, published in 2014, through collaborative analysis, movement exploration, and creative ideation to explore how its themes can be meaningfully applied within current teaching and learning environments. Through facilitated dialogue and structured activities, we will examine the vision's key ideas in light of current shifts in dance education, including evolving student populations, interdisciplinary collaboration, technological change, and expanding career pathways for dancers and dance educators. The session will invite you to reflect on how the aspirations outlined in Dance 2050 continue to resonate, where new questions have emerged, and how educators can collectively advance the vision within their own institutional contexts. Designed as an interactive think tank, the session invites you to contribute to the collective stewardship and ongoing evolution of the Dance 2050 vision.

12. Somatic Practices for Self-Care

Presented by Susan Bauer

\$45

3:00 - 5:30 pm

Relax, de-stress, and gain inspiration, all while learning essential somatic skills to teach to your teen and young adult dancers. In this session, you will experience sample somatic movement activities that encourage a more grounded, embodied presence. As educators, focusing on self-care first is essential for our own wellbeing, while enhancing our embodied experience is also central to the ability to teach the material. Presenter Susan Bauer will introduce her "Eight Pedagogy Principles" from her book, *The Embodied Teen*. The pedagogy principles offer a framework for introducing somatic practices, which can be adapted based on one's particular background and student population. When approached with care, we can benefit from these practices ourselves and learn to skillfully invite young dancers into somatic practices--helping them to thrive, now and into adulthood. Come move, explore, and emerge refreshed for the conference!



National Dance Education Organization 2026 National Conference OVERVIEW

Thursday SEPTEMBER 24	Friday SEPTEMBER 25	Saturday SEPTEMBER 26	Sunday SEPTEMBER 27
Pre-Conference Intensives Add-On Day ADDITIONAL FEES APPLY Choose from 12 different Pre-Conference Intensives	Regular Conference Day INCLUDED IN FEE Choose from over 70 different presentations, workshops, and movement sessions each day	Regular Conference Day INCLUDED IN FEE Choose from over 70 different presentations, workshops, and movement sessions each day	Regular Conference Day INCLUDED IN FEE Choose from over 70 different presentations, workshops, and movement sessions each day
COLLEGE FAIR, AND LOCAL NEW MEXICO STUDENT PERFORMANCE OPEN TO ALL	GRAND OPENING DINNER Award Presentation & Keynote	STATE AFFILIATE RECEPTIONS	GRAND CLOSING AND DANCE PARTY

Access to the events below are included in your Full Conference Registration Fee, or the day you selected as your One-Day Conference Registration Fee option