

Crysta Caulkins-Clouse
Teaching Statement

In my role as a dance instructor, my goal is to empower students from all backgrounds to discover and cultivate their unique artistic voices. I firmly believe that everyone has the potential to excel in dance, regardless of their background. Moreover, I am committed to guiding all my students in uncovering their individual styles and perspectives, emphasizing that diversity enriches personal and community experience in the arts.

My certifications in Movement Fundamentals and Progressing Ballet Technique underpin my commitment to providing a safe and sustainable learning environment for my students. These certifications, paired with the strong university dance training I received from Texas State University and Texas Woman's University, have equipped me with a deep understanding of the mechanics of the human body and how to foster somatic awareness in dance practice. By incorporating these principles into training, I not only enhance the artistic growth of students but also extend the longevity of their dance careers. Through these techniques, students learn to move with deep proprioceptive awareness, developing profound connections with their bodies and reducing their risk of injury. This, in turn, empowers them to dance throughout their lifetimes.

Additionally, collaboration and dialogue among myself and my students are essential in my classroom. These practices enable students to bring their diverse perspectives and experiences into the learning process, enriching the discussion and fostering a more inclusive environment. Through collaborative experiences, students develop the art of listening, analyzing, and evaluating, and therefore are better able to understand and make choices in a world with multiple perspectives. Through dance, students have the ability to address important issues and make a positive impact on their surroundings. I encourage my students to explore how their art can be a catalyst for change, fostering a sense of community and belonging, regardless of where they come from.

In summary, my teaching centers on nurturing creativity, fostering social responsibility, and promoting global awareness through the medium of dance, with the core belief that everyone can (and dare I say—"should") dance, no matter their background. I am committed to providing the guidance and support necessary for each student, ensuring they have the opportunity to find their artistic voice, become community advocates, and ultimately, become global ambassadors through their artistic practice.