



SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SUU'S "SOUTHERN UTAH DAY OF DANCE"

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: More than 100 high school dance students traveled to Southern Utah University to participate in a series of workshops at the **Department of Theatre Arts and Dance's** first ***Southern Utah Day of Dance***. Designed to help perspective dance students learn more about SUU's dance program, this two-day event featured classes led by SUU dance faculty, alumni and current students. The free event was held December 5 and 6 primarily in **SUU's Multipurpose Center's Dance Labs**. Attendees came from various areas from throughout Utah.

Aimed to help high school dancers develop their skills, SUU's dance faculty worked with the students challenging the fledging performers. The classes were created for all levels of performers: beginner, intermediate and advance. Workshops included ballet, modern, jazz, tap, ballroom, yoga, Pilates, improvisation/composition and musical theater. These sessions were led by SUU's dance faculty including **Kay Andersen, Megan Brunsvold, Patricia Meredith** and **Denise Purvis**. In addition, the students worked with some of SUU's outstanding dance alumni and current students.

Participants were wildly enthusiastic and enjoyed working with SUU's dance faculty. According to Denise Purvis, Assistant Professor of Dance, "We had great fun dancing with middle and high school students from throughout Utah. I enjoyed getting to know these young artists and sharing with them all the wonderful learning opportunities SUU offers. Their dance teachers were also very happy to have the opportunity for large groups of their students to gain quality instruction to supplement their daily classes."

The concept for ***Day of Dance*** was devised by former student **Shannon Marshall**, a dance education major. Marshall was the primary coordinator and contact person for the event which served as her capstone project. Reflecting on her enormous event, Marshall stated, "*Southern Utah Day of Dance* went better than expected. I had prepared very well prior to the event to make sure there weren't mistakes that

would cause issues. Once the day came I was prepared to answer questions, organize the students and do whatever else was required of me. Every aspect went very smoothly and it was a good opportunity for me to implement my artistic and leadership skills. This project was a great capstone project because it included many parts of my life and brought them together. I chose this as my capstone because I knew it would be the greatest thing I could leave behind for SUU. It is a way for potential students to meet the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance faculty, for current students to test their teaching skills, and for SUU to promote dance.”

Shannon Marshall recently received a Bachelors of Science in Dance Education and Health Education from Southern Utah University. She started her dance training at three years old with jazz and tap and later began ballet and has been in love with dance ever since. Through Shannon's many years of dancing she realized that dancing is part of her life journey and it always will be. It is Shannon's dream to inspire the love of dance in her students and to help them gain the tools they will need for their personal life's journey.

The ***Southern Utah Day of Dance*** was held during the run of ***Collected Objects, An Original Student-Choreographed Dance Concert, December 3 through 6*** at SUU's **Randall L. Jones Theatre** and many of the high school students were able to attend the performance over the weekend.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The **Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts** is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as a graduate program in Arts Administration and Center for Shakespeare Studies. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration degree. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival and SUU's Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean at (435) 865-8561, or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.