



NCDEO 2026 Conference

Rooted and Rising: Building an Inclusive and Resilient Future for Dance Education

Elon University | Saturday, February 21

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Conference Check-In 8:00-8:30

Welcome & Keynote 8:30-9:45

Featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. Caroline Ketcham

[It's Our Day to Be Brilliant: Building Mentally Healthy Habits](#)

Breakout Session 1 10:00-11:05 am

Pedagogy

[Unruly Archivists: Teaching 20th-Century Dance History with Muscle Memory and Mild Mischief](#)

Chelsea Hilding

Pedagogy

[Moving the Frame: Integrating Dance Film and Photography in the Classroom](#)

Jen Guy Metcalf

Movement

[Find Your Fascia with MUNZ FLOOR®](#)

Audrey Baran

Movement

[BII - The Body's Intrinsic Intelligence: Exploring the Sacroiliac Joint](#)

Karola Luttinghaus

Panel

[Being Brilliant: Continuing the Conversation with Dr. Ketcham](#)

Caroline Ketcham

Breakout Session 2 11:20 am-12:30 pm

Pedagogy

[Restaging Tradition: How the U.S. Dance Industry Changed After 2020](#)

Antonina Spinello

Movement

[Care for Yourself and for Others in Dance](#)

Amelia Renee Byrd

Pedagogy

[Kathak: Storytelling Immersion through Footwork](#)

Priyadarshini Inman

Movement

[Umfundalai Contemporary African Dance: Rooted In Tradition and Building On The Present](#)

Cheryl M. Stevens

Pedagogy

[Rhythms of Resilience: The Mental Health Impacts of Black Dancers at Predominately White Institutions](#)

Evelyn Ealey

Lunch and Learn 12:30-1:35 pm

Pedagogy

[Advocacy: Practical Steps to Ensure the Sustainability and Growth of your Program](#)

Discussion

[Your Voice, Our Future - Shaping Tomorrow Together: A Listening Session with NDEO's Executive Director](#)

Discussion

[Undergraduate Student Meet-and-Greet](#)

Audrey Baran

	Kristin Hayes	Ray Schwartz		
Breakout Session 3 1:45-2:55 pm				
Pedagogy <u>Rooted and Rising with the Language of Dance: A Pedagogical Approach to Building Inclusive Dance Classes</u> Sonya Monts	Movement <u>Digital Drift: Improvising the Future</u> Nile H. Russell	Pedagogy <u>USE YOUR CORE! Ok...but like, how?</u> Emily Crofford	Movement <u>Being With Safety Release: Equipping Students with Agency, Resilience, and Belonging Through Their Diverse Applications</u> Caitlyn Schrader	Pedagogy <u>Creative Chaos Lab: Teaching Collaboration Through Play, Ambiguity, and Multimedia</u> Renay Aumiller Doug Jurs Ryan Rasmussen
Breakout Session 4 3:10-4:15 pm				
Pedagogy <u>Dancing in Real Time: Teaching, Creating, and Thriving in Today's Dance Education Landscape</u> Quan Powers	Pedagogy <u>Dance + Disability = DEI</u> Heather Pike	Pedagogy <u>Fearless Fittings: How to Make Every Dancer Feel Empowered in Costume Fittings</u> Kayla Higbee Brooke Goldstein	Movement <u>African-Infused Dance: Technique and Teaching Strategies</u> Sherone Price	Movement <u>Contemporary Approaches to Classical Ballet</u> Alyah Baker
Closing Presentation + Awards 4:30-5:30				

A certificate denoting 10 hours of professional development (= 1 CEU) will be available for educators who attend the full conference and complete a short follow-up activity. Please make note of your interest in this option when you register for the conference.

Follow NCDEO on social media & share your conference experiences using the hashtag: #ncdeoconf26

