



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	Pedagogy	Movement	Movement	Panel
<u>Unruly Archivists: Teaching 20th-Century Dance History with Muscle Memory and Mild Mischief</u> Chelsea Hilding	<u>Moving the Frame: Integrating Dance Film and Photography in the Classroom</u> Jen Guy Metcalf	<u>Find Your Fascia with MUNZ FLOOR®</u> Audrey Baran	<u>BII - The Body's Intrinsic Intelligence: Exploring the Sacroiliac Joint</u> Karola Luttringhaus	<u>Being Brilliant: Continuing the Conversation with Dr. Ketcham</u> Caroline Ketcham

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

Pedagogy	Movement	Pedagogy	Movement	Pedagogy
<u>Restaging Tradition: How the U.S. Dance Industry Changed After 2020</u> Antonina Spinello	<u>Care for Yourself and for Others in Dance</u> Amelia Renee Byrd	<u>Kathak: Storytelling Immersion through Footwork</u> Priyadarshini Inman	<u>Umfundalai Contemporary African Dance: Rooted In Tradition and Building On The Present</u> Cheryl M. Stevens	<u>Rhythms of Resilience: The Mental Health Impacts of Black Dancers at Predominately White Institutions</u> Evelyn Ealey

Lunch and Learn 12:30-1:35 pm

	Pedagogy	Discussion	Discussion	
	<u>Advocacy: Practical Steps to Ensure the Sustainability and Growth of your Program</u>	<u>Your Voice, Our Future - Shaping Tomorrow Together: A Listening Session with NDEO's Executive Director</u>	<u>Undergraduate Student Meet-and-Greet</u> 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

