

NEW YORK STATE
dance education
ASSOCIATION

March 31, 2009

Dear Member of Congress,

The New York Dance Education Association, NYSDEA is very proud to be a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2009 in Washington D.C.

NYSDEA is a non-profit organization incorporated in New York State that has its roots in the New York State Dance Association, which was established 30 years ago. An autonomous membership organization, NYSDEA is affiliated with the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) and is recognized by the New York State Department of Education. Its purpose is to bring together members for networking and the sharing of ideas related to the mission of the organization, which is to advance dance education centered in the arts, throughout the State of New York. NYSDEA works with national and state organizations in carrying out the national mission of promoting and strengthening dance as an art form and as an effective tool for education. Our goal is to advocate, promote, support, and strengthen dance education in all environments and institutions in New York State.

NYSDEA welcomes dance education professionals, students and institutions. We seek to serve a broad constituency: private sector, K-12 public and private schools, higher education, professional company education outreach, school and arts administrators, not-for-profit and for profit organizations, e.g., corporations, business and foundations that support dance. NYSDEA strengthens the network of dance educators, nationally, locally and throughout the state by providing quality professional development to dance educators in the State of New York offering opportunities for individuals to create, perform, and observe dance in the State of New York and by supporting the effort nationally. The many invaluable benefits for this broad constituency include: networking with others across the state and nationally, membership in the NDEO, the Journal of Dance Education: a national peer review publication, Annual NDEO conferences, New York State workshops, NYSDEA website for information sharing, National Honor Society for students 11-18 years of age, and a voice in developing New York State dance policy and curricular issues.

It is our hope that through Arts Advocacy Day United States legislators will come to understand the powerful need to increase funding for Dance Education throughout the fifty United States. We encourage legislators to recognize the essential role dance as an art form should play in the education of students and citizens across all areas of the education spectrum.

With sincere best wishes,

Patricia Cohen, President
NYSDEA
New York State Dance Education Association