

## **Dance Academy Scholarship Program Mentorship Guidelines**

Updated 10/6/08

### ***BalletMet Columbus Education Mission:***

*“BalletMet's Education mission is to provide quality dance experiences that are informative, inspirational and accessible so that the entire community may appreciate and enjoy the art of dance.”*

BalletMet Columbus is committed to providing Merit Level scholarship students who demonstrate the physical, creative and intellectual possibilities to have a career as a performer in the dance field the added benefit of mentoring. Students may range from ages 9-18 years old.

Mentoring as defined from *The Elements of Effective Practice* by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation is:

*“A structured and trusting relationship that brings young people together with caring individuals who offer guidance, support and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and character of the mentee.”*

### ***Management of the BalletMet Dance Academy Scholarship Mentorship Program***

The Director of Education and Academy Director oversee the BalletMet Dance Academy Scholarship Program with the assistance of the Scholarship Coordinator.

### ***Benefits of Mentoring***

- Provide added support to the rigors and challenges of dance training in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Maintain a consistent presence within a young dancer's Dance Academy life.
- Decrease attrition rates of scholarship students.
- Model effective communication and interpersonal skills.
- Identify possible resources for assistance in reaching life goals.

### **Screening of Mentors**

Background Check and Reference Check

Interview

Personal Statement of Mentorship Interest

Resume

## **Suggestions for Developing a Positive Mentoring Relationship**

- Focus on the mentee's needs as a student not the mentor's desires or value imposition. Mentors should not try to transform a student's life and should be mindful and respectful of the mentee's life circumstances.
- Get to know the mentee's family without becoming over involved.
- Meet for a treat or something to eat in a group or with mentee's parents in a public place after a performance or observation event.
- Check in with the Mentee on a bi-monthly basis via letter, email or phone call.

## **Responsibilities of a Mentor**

- Pay a nominal fee for the BMV check. Other background checks are covered under the mentorship partnership with the *Mentoring Center of Central Ohio*.
- Meet with Mentee and family as part of a larger Mentorship Orientation Event. A calendar will be distributed with dates of opportunities to connect with mentees throughout the year.
- Attend Parent's Observation to watch the mentee in class.
- Attend some performances of the student mentee's like the Academy Spring Performance or Nutcracker.
- Meet with the mentee at least once per month. Twice monthly is preferred.
- Listen and discuss student goals and review dance evaluation if shared by mentee.
- If needed, provide academic tutoring or facilitate a tutor through the Tutoring Program at BalletMet.
- Attend Mentor orientation and mentor/mentee events as scheduled.
- Complete evaluation form of Mentorship Program and experience as needed.

## **Cautions**

- **Always** meet your Mentee in a public place with others around, preferably accompanied by another person or with the Mentee's parent/guardian.
- Transportation of the Mentee is not recommended.

## **Responsibilities of a Mentee**

- Obtain written permission from your Parent/Guardian for any activities, meetings and for participation in the Mentorship Program. It is required.
- Attend meetings with your mentor and family as part of a larger Mentorship Orientation or other event.
- Speak with mentor and thank them for coming to observe classes during Parent Observation Week.

- Invite the mentor to performances like the Academy Spring Performance or Nutcracker.
- Check in appropriately with the mentor via letter, email or phone call.
- Discuss dance and life goals with mentor.

## **How to Become A Mentor**

Step 1: Contact the Director of Education about your interest in the Dance Academy Scholarship Mentoring Program. Submit your letter of interest based on the Mentoring Guidelines above and resume to the Director of Education electronically.

Step 2: A background, BMV and reference check will be completed. Mentors will be asked to pay the nominal fee for the BMV check. Potential mentors will be contacted to schedule an interview with the Director of Education. The interview is an opportunity for information to be exchanged so a match to a Mentee can be considered.

Step 3: Attend the Mentorship Training (free of charge). After your training has been completed, you will be matched with a student who needs an adult role model and support for successful dance training.