CCSU’s Dance Education Program & Island Reflections Dance Theatre with Dancentral present:

TERRA FIRMA

Sunday, April 23
Welt Auditorium

2023 3:00 PM New Britain, CT

Free!

Please consider donating to support our scholars.

Online livestream available at ccsu.edu/dance
or by using the QR code

Directors: PASCAL REKOERT STEPHEN HANKEY ERICA NELSON

Sponsored by the School of Education and Professional Studies
Central Connecticut State University · 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT
Central Connecticut State University

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. James Mulrooney, Interim Dean, SEPS
Dr. Pete Morano, Chair, PEHP
Pascal Rekoert, Dance Education Program Director
Stephen D. Hankey, Island Reflections Dance Theatre
Erica Nelson, Dancentral Director and Faculty Advisor

The Dance Education Program & Island Reflections Dance Theatre with Dancentral

~Present~

TERRA
FIRMA

Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 p.m.
Welte Auditorium

Featuring Choreography by:

Faculty members:
Stephen D. Hankey, Lindsay Hansen, Ingrid Howe-Green,
Ilker Ozbekli, Erica Nelson, Pascal Rekoert

Guest artist:
Alexandra Mitchell

Student choreographers:
Sydney Champagne, Cloe Tranter

Photography and audio/video recording of performance is strictly prohibited.

CCSU’s Dance Education Program is committed to uplifting and giving power to diverse voices through the arts. We acknowledge that our dance studios are located on the unceded ancestral land of the Tunxis, Quinnipiac, and Wappinger People. If you live in the United States, you will likely live and work on the stolen land of other Indigenous Peoples. We hope you will help your community learn about the land you are occupying to overcome the negative effects of settler colonialism and celebrate the rich history and traditions of Native People. Learn more at https://native-land.ca
Terra Firma, Latin for “solid ground”, celebrates the end of the pandemic and the return to everyday life. Additionally, this performance is a celebration of Caribbean culture and human diversity.
DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Almost 23 years ago, I first set foot onto the beautiful stage on which you see the CCSU dancers perform today. Of course, the world has changed since then. Collectively and recently, we have weathered a pandemic. Although the divide between red and blue America resembles the Civil War era, there is an increased unity in our nation. One powerful way to come together, get back to normal, and honor our commonalities are what you are doing today: celebrating the arts.

While the importance of art has been debated for decades, the pandemic has solidified art's value. How would you have survived without video-sourcing platforms, your library of books, or the performing arts organizations that pivoted to virtual media, pulling us through the challenging times? The arts entertain, inspire, and provide an opportunity for self-discovery and expression. They are the ultimate connector. The word "art" originates from the Latin ars or artem, which means "skill," "craft," or "work of art." While studying as part of our Dance Education Program, our students perfect the art of dance and the art of teaching. They are diverse and talented, and I am excited for you to see their accomplishments on stage and witness where their professional journey takes them. Staying within the performance topic, they are the salt of the earth!

As an advocate for human diversity, I celebrate our students' diverse identities. I also applaud CCSU faculty and organizations that tirelessly promote equity, justice, and inclusion to achieve a just society on campus and beyond. One such advocate for centralizing human diversity is Professor Stephen Hankey, who teaches several dance courses on campus, moves mountains as a high school dance teacher at Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School, and brings his Afro-Caribbean culture to the masses with his Island Reflections Dance Theatre. I am delighted for you to witness his choreographic artistry.

In Spring 2020, Hankey planned to show work on campus with us. While that show, Precious Gems, never got to shine on our Welte Stage, I am thrilled you can catch two of his dances today. Additionally, you will see various dance premieres. I thank the dance faculty and our talented students for their time, energy, and dedication to making these dances and helping grow our community. But, of course, you, our audience, also deserve applause! We are excited that you joined us at Welte Auditorium or online. I hope this will be the first of many times we connect as audience members or future students. Enjoy the show!

With gratitude,
Pascal Rekoert
Welcome & Opening Remarks
Pascal Rekoert - Director, Dance Education Program
Stephen D. Hankey - Director, Island Reflections Dance Theatre

Act 1

Sacred Water Precious Earth, A Folk Ballet (Premiere)
Tribute to the goddess of the waters & Father & Mother of the Earth (Yemanja, Mama Latta, & Obaluaye)

Choreographed by Stephen D. Hankey
Rehearsal Assistant: Christine Kershaw-Hobson
Music by: Ralph McDonald, Ella Andall, Tribal Orchestra, Baka Beyond & Traditional Drumming:
Curtis Greenidge, Asaad Jackson, and Joanne James
Music Compilation: DJ Wasine
Costumes: Sonny Salina

Yemanja Reigns: Robert Byrd, Adrien Edwards, Denese Smith-Munroe (Yemanja), Akera Robotham

Water Nymphs: Tiana Boccuzzi, Mellissa Craig, Margie Dadamo, Loren Denise,
Chantal Edwards-Matthews, Isabella Galdamez, Erica Lavender,
Royael Marie Saez, Elisa Schuder, and Tina Webley

The Libation/ The Calling for Yemanja: Sandra Mark (Priestess), Mellissa Craig, Loren Denise,
Chantal Edwards-Matthews, Royael Marie Saez, and Tina Webley (Devotees)

Celebration for Yemanja: Denese Smith-Munroe (Yemanja), Sandra Mark (Priestess), Mellissa Craig,
Loren Denise, Chantal Edwards-Matthews, Royael Marie Saez, and Tina Webley (Devotees)

Precious Earth: Karrington Trice (Mother Earth) and Johnny Johnson, Jr. (Father Earth)

Earth Gems: Caroline Barrett, Sydney Champagne, Loren Denise, Tiyana Griffiths, and Erica Lavender

The Crossing: Mellissa Craig, Margie Dadamo, Sandra Mark,
Chantal Edwards-Matthews, Royael Marie Saez, and Tina Webley
**Earthlings**: Tiana Boccuzzi, Adrien Edwards, Isabella Galdamez, Vilamari Gonzalez, Akera Robotham, Lorena Rodriguez, Elisa Schuder, and Cloe Tranter

**Earth Duet**: Johnny Johnson, Jr. and Karrington Trice

**Earth Fusion**: Caroline Barrett, Sydney Champagne, Mellissa Craig, Margie Dadamo, Loren Denise, Tiyana Griffiths, Erica Lavender, Elisa Schuder, Sandra Mark, Chantal Edwards-Matthews, Royael Marie Saez, and Tina Webley

**Earthlings**: Tiana Boccuzzi, Isabella Galdamez, Vilamari Gonzalez, Elisa Schuder, and Cloe Tranter

**Mixture of the Elements**: Full Cast

---

**Awards & Scholarships**

**Appreciation Plaque**: Valencia Coleman  
Awarded by Stephen Hankey  
Director, Island Reflections Dance Theatre

**Carol Ciutto Award**: Isabella Galdamez  
Awarded by Pascal Rekoert  
Assistant Professor & Dance Education Program Coordinator, PEHP

**Estelle Jones Triarhos Scholarship**: Genevieve Buehler  
Awarded by Dr. James Mulrooney  
Interim Dean, School of Education & Professional Studies

**Catherine J. Fellows Scholarship**: Marilyn Tiul  
Awarded by Catherine Fellows  
Professor Emerita, Dance Education Program, PEHP

**Demetra Daniel Perrelli Scholarship**: Karis Bongiolatti  
Awarded by Dr. Kimberley Kostelis  
Provost

---

**Terra Firma (Premiere)**  
Choreographed by Pascal Rekoert  
Danced by Karis Bongiolatti, Sydney Champagne, Isabella Galdamez, and Marilyn Tiul  
Music: Eikyou by Lili Refrain

---

10-Minute Intermission
Solid Ground (Premiere)
Choreographed by Ilker Ozbeli
Danced by Gina Brienza, Amanie Fleetin, Neyleannie Franco, Vanessa Fusco, Katherine Gibson, Vilmari Gonzalez, Samantha Kuruc, Caitlyn Noble, Yeyris Ortiz, and Lorena Rodriguez
Music: La Hada y el Gordo by Medialuna Tango Project and Livin' la Vida Loca by Ricky Martin

To Dust (Premiere)
Choreographed by Erica Nelson
Music: Part of Dust by clipping. & Cheryl E. Leonard, and Attunement by clipping. & Pedestrian Deposit

Will We Conform? (Premiere)
Choreographed by Cloe Tranter
Danced by Erin Curry, Vanessa Fusco, Samantha Kuruc, and Cloe Tranter
Music: Rinascimento by Kim Neundorf, and Renaissance by Cristobal Tapia De Veer

Rooted (Premiere)
Choreographed by Ingrid Howe-Green
Danced by Tiana Boccuzzi, Sydney Champagne, and Lorena Rodriguez
Music: Rooted by Aisha Badru

Arena (Premiere)
Choreographed by Lindsay Hansen
Danced by Gina Brienza, Nadia Caso, Erin Curry, Amanie Fleetin, Vanessa Fusco, Katherine Gibson, Tiyana Griffiths, Danielle Hoague, Alexa Lombardo, Lacie Low, Caitlyn Noble, and Cloe Tranter
Music: The Phoenix and The Arena by Lindsay Stirling

Strobe lighting effects will be used during this performance. Patrons that may suffer from epilepsy & other visual light stimulation effects are advised to contact the Front of House staff, prior to entering the auditorium!
~Brief Pause~

**Grey (2022)**
Choreographed by Alexandra Mitchell
Performed by Caitlyn Noble
Music: *Grey* by Ani Difranco

**Her Spirit (2022)**
Choreographed by Sydney Champagne
Danced by Karis Bongiolatti, Jenna Buehler, Sydney Champagne, Vanessa Fusco, Isabella Galdamez, Lacie Low, Lorena Rodriguez, and Cloe Tranter
Music: *Me and the Devil* by Soap&Skin

**Caribbean Portrait: A Caribbean Folk Ballet (2010)**
Choreographed by Stephen D. Hankey
Rehearsal Assistant: Christine Kershaw-Hobson
Prerecorded music by Wasis Diop, Andre Tanker feat. 3Canal, The Marionettes & bpTT, Renegades Steel Orchestra, Georg Friedrich Händel, Greg Stafford & Dr. Michael White, Machel Montano.
Live drumming by Curtis Greenidge, Asaad Jackson, and Joanne James
Music Compilation: DJ Wasine
Costumes: Sonny Salina

**Opening- Exposition with Sound Effects of Caribbean:** Full Cast


**Fishermen:** Robert Byrd, Adrien Edwards, and Akera Robotham

**Washerwomen at the River:** Mellissa Craig, Loren Denise, Sandra Mark, Chantal Edwards-Matthews, Denese Smith-Munroe, Royael Marie Saez, Karrington Trice, and Tina Webley

**The Coconut Vendors & Tourists:**
Coconut vendors: Robert Byrd, Adrien Edwards, and Akera Robotham
Tourists: Vilmari Gonzalez and Danielle Hoague
Caribbean Market Place: Melissa Craig, Loren Denise, Sandra Mark, Chantal Edwards-Matthews, Denese Smith-Munroe, Royael Marie Saez, and Tina Webley

Resurrection Sunday: Caroline Barrett, Margie Dadamo, Samantha Kuruc, Erica Lavender, Lorena Rodriguez, and Karrington Trice

Easter Celebration: Robert Byrd, Mellissa Craig, Loren Denise, Adrian Edwards, Sandra Mark, Chantal Edwards-Matthews, Johnny Johnson, Jr., Akera Robotham, Denese Smith-Munroe, Royael Marie Saez, and Tina Webley

Beach Fiesta: Tiana Boccuzzi, Sydney Champagne, Isabella Galdamez, Vilmar Gonzalez, Tyana Griffiths, Danielle Hoague, Samantha Kuruc, Erica Lavender, Elisa Schuder, and Cloe Tranter

Carnival Characters: Robert Byrd, Adrien Edwards, Johnny Johnson, Jr., and Akera Robotham

Showtime: Mellissa Craig, Loren Denise, Sandra Mark, Chantal Edwards-Matthews, Denese Smith-Munroe, Royael Marie Saez, Karrington Trice, and Tina Webley

Flag Party - Bows

Pre- and post-show music by Bill Withers, Studio Rio, Van Morrison, Michael Jackson, Bob Marley & The Wailers, Harry Styles, Lizzo, Adele, Marvin Gaye, Fleetwood Mac, Lennon & Maisy, Coldplay, and Louis Armstrong

Intermission music by Pascal Schumacher, Maxime Delpierre, Roedelius, Moebius, and Brian Eno

Bow music: Kool & the Gang
Production Leadership

Production Directors: Pascal Rekoert & Stephen D. Hankey
Stage Manager/Dancentral Director: Erica Nelson
Tech Director: Scott McKenna

Dancentral President: Isabella Galdamez
IRDT Rehearsal Assistant: Christine Kershaw-Hobson
IRDT Admin Coordinator: Royael Marie Saez

Lighting Designer: Christopher Gallagher
Tech Manager: Tyler Stout
Videographer/Live Stream: Spencer Raccio & CCSU Media Center
Photographer: Rachel Russell

Dancers

Caroline Barrett
Tiana Boccuzzi
Karis Bongiolatti
Gina Brienza
Liloni Brown
Jenna Buehler
Robert Byrd
Nadia Caso
Sydney Champagne
Melissia Craig
Erin Curry
Margie Dadamo
Loren Denise
Adrien Edwards
Chantal Edwards-Mathews
Amanie Fleetling
Neyleannie Franco
Vanessa Fusco
Isabella Galdamez
Katherine Gibson
Vilmari Gonzalez
Tiyana Griffiths
Danielle Hoague
Johnny Johnson, Jr.
Samantha Kuruc
Erica Lavender
Alexa Lombardo
Lacie Low
Sandra Mark
Caitlyn Noble
Yeyris Ortiz
Akera Robotham
Lorena Rodriguez
Royael Marie Saez
Elisa Schuder
Denese Smith-Munroe
Marilyn Tiul
Cloe Tranter
Karrington Trice
Tina Webley
Choreographers

**Sydney Champagne** (Student choreographer) is a sophomore studying Dance Education with a specialization in Entrepreneurship. She has been dancing for about 18 years and received most of her training at Dance by Kristin. She is joining Dancentral for her fourth semester as Vice President and is excited to have her contemporary group work “Her Spirit” return to the Welte stage.

A native of Trinidad and Tobago, **Stephen D. Hankey** (IRDT Artistic Director & CCSU Dance Faculty) is a dancer, master teacher in traditional Caribbean folk forms, Artistic Director, and choreographer. Mr. Hankey also teaches full-time at the Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School (full-time) and is an Adjunct Professor at Central Connecticut State University. Stephen holds a B.F.A. from the Hartt School, University of Hartford (Honors). Stephen is the President and Artistic Director of The Island Reflections Dance Theatre, Inc., in Hartford, CT, and was a founding member, choreographer, and performer of The National Dance Theatre Company of Trinidad and Tobago. His choreography credits include J’ouvert (1995), Road March (1997), A Brighter Day (1998), and Red House Fire! Fire! (1999) for the Baggasse Company; Bassman (1997) with the Signal Hill Theater Workshop Tobago; Hewanora Story (1997) for the St. Lucia Research Center and Jen S. Designs; the Voodoo Ceremony for the ABC television film Production Creature by Peter Benchley with Trilogy Entertainment North Ltd. (1997), and Ti Jean and His Brothers for Trinity College (2000). He has collaborated with Indiana State University, Trinity College, and Yale on special assignments, and has performed extensively nationally and internationally.

**Lindsay Hansen** (Dance Faculty) holds an Associate of Arts degree in Dance from Naugatuck Valley Community College, along with her B.S. in Elementary Education with a cross-endorsement in Dance Education K-12 from Central Connecticut State University. She has also completed her M.S. in Educational Leadership from CCSU and her 6th year at Quinnipiac University. Currently, she is a full-time Dance Educator at Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts in Hartford. She has been teaching Dance Education for over 10 years and is currently an adjunct professor at CCSU teaching Jazz.
Ingrid Howe-Green (Dance Faculty) received her B.S. and M.S. in Elementary Education from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), as well as a unique endorsement in dance, under the direction of Catherine Fellows. Prior to classical dance training, she was a Nationally competitive figure skater and coach in synchronized skating. Her formal dance training began with Joseph Albano, founder of the Hartford Ballet, and Julia Frederick of the Albano Ballet Company. Mrs. Howe-Green's professional dance teaching career started in 2007 at Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts in Hartford, CT, where she was the dance chair and lead writer of the dance curriculum for Hartford Public Schools. There, she was voted teacher of the year, received the Starfish and Bricklayer award as well as received a proclamation award from Hartford’s Mayor. In 2009, she returned to CCSU as an adjunct faculty member, as well as choreographing for DanCentral. Along with Teaching at CCSU currently, Mrs. Howe-Green is a full-time dance faculty member at Waterbury Arts Magnet School in Waterbury, CT where she teaches dance to grades 6-12 and runs three different afterschool dance programs for her students.

Alex Mitchell (Guest Choreographer) is a colorful, queer creative based in New York City. Growing up on Long Island, Alex knew early on that she had a passion for movement, performing, and connecting with others through dance. After receiving her BFA in Dance Studies from Long Island University, she went on to complete Broadway Dance Center’s Professional Semester program. Concentrating on Contemporary/Jazz and Street Styles, Alex trained with NYC’s top commercial choreographers. Alex has worked with Cosmopolitan Magazine, Macy’s, and MTV, and is a company member and assistant with Theresa Stone’s AbstraKT Beings. Her work in choreography has been presented at events like Sybarite Love is Love, The Young Choreographer’s Festival, WAX Works, Dumbo Dance Festival, and more. Alex is a passionate teaching artist and has worked with program students at BrickHouse NYC and Broadway Dance Center. She is currently on faculty at PJM Studios, Connecticut Dance Conservatory, and Glen Dance Studio. Alex’s work ethic and bubbly personality shine through in all of her creative endeavors.

Erica Nelson (Dancentral Director & Dance Faculty) Residing in Hartford, CT, Erica Nelson is a classically trained dancer who received her BFA in Dance Performance with University Honors from The Hartt School, University of Hartford. She is pursuing her Master’s in Arts Leadership and Cultural Management from Colorado State University. Erica is
currently an adjunct professor of Dance at Central Connecticut State University, where she teaches ballet, modern, dance production, and repertory. She acts as the faculty advisor and director of the student dance group Dancentral. She also teaches dance at local studios and works as a stage manager for regional dance companies and CCSU. Erica is on the Board of Directors for Connecticut Dance Alliance, serving as the Hartford Regional Coordinator. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of The END Ensemble, a project-based contemporary dance company. They have shown work throughout Hartford, Boston, and New York and at dance festivals throughout New England. You can find them on Facebook and Instagram at @theendensemble and www.theendensemble.org

Originally from Turkey, Ilker Ozbelli (Dance Faculty) has worked at Arthur Murray Dance Studios since 2004 and teaches Ballroom at Central Connecticut State University. He has choreographed routines from beginner to advanced level. During his 20-year career of teaching, dancing, directing, and supervising dance, he has also competed in Rhythm and Smooth Pro and Pro/am.

Pascal Rekoert (Dance Education Program Director) danced professionally with European companies before moving to the USA. In 1998 he performed in "The Fall," a piece that garnered acclaim as "the dance document of the '90s," receiving the coveted Prix du Bonheur du Rue St. Denis in Paris, France. As a choreographer, Mr. Rekoert presented his work in theaters in Great Britain, Germany, former Yugoslavia, Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United States, Canada, Mexico and produced dance film shorts for the International Rotterdam Film Festival and various festivals throughout the USA. Before teaching at Central, Rekoert was an Associate Artistic Director at Jennifer Muller/ The Works, setting work at Lincoln Center and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. The first time he set foot on campus was in 2001, and he is happy to be at CCSU in a full-time capacity. www.pascalrekoert.com

Cloe Tranter (Student choreographer) is a senior majoring in Dance Education with a minor in business. This is Cloe's 8th and final semester with Dancentral. She is honored to share her piece, "Will We Conform?", alongside the works of her professors and fellow students whom she values highly. She hopes that after viewing her piece, you may ponder areas of your own life that you often conform to, and that you may not want to. She also wants to highlight the incredible amount of work and dedication the faculty, students, and dancers have put into this showcase. Cloe is so grateful to have the opportunity to share the stage with her CCSU dance family one last time.
Dancers

Caroline Barrett, a Marketing major at CCSU, has been with the dance company for 2 semesters. I am so excited for everyone to perform! Enjoy the show!

Tiana Boccuzzi, Tiana Boccuzzi, is a senior studying Elementary Education with a focus on English. This is her 9th and final semester with Dancentral. She has previously served as the company’s Public Relations, Officer Vice President, and President. She is grateful for the opportunities the company has provided for her and the lifelong friendships she has made along the way.

Karis Bongiolatti is a sophomore and Dance Education Major. This is her 4th semester with Dancentral and she hopes you enjoy the show.

Gina Brienza has been dancing her whole life and is a sophomore. She has been in Dancentral for four semesters!

Liloni Brown is a junior Dance Education major. This is her 6th semester in Dancentral!

Jenna Buehler has been with Dancentral for two semesters! I have really enjoyed watching all of these pieces come together and I'm very excited for everyone to see what we've been working on!

Robert Byrd: Dance to me is the flow of life; you are the creator of your own destiny! Dance has been a part of my life since I was a child! The ins and outs, the ups, and the downs. Dance has saved my life in different aspects, keeping me focused and staying out of trouble. A star was born! I am him, and he is me!

Nadia Caso is a senior majoring in Dance Entrepreneurship. She is also the treasurer of Dancentral. This is Nadia's eighth semester in Dancentral, and is so excited to take the stage one more time with her dance family!

Mellissa Rose Craig: Dance is my Life! Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamed of dancing on the big stages and making audiences laugh, cry, and move, as I performed. I wish to thank my mentors, and teachers, all of whom inspired me and showed patience throughout the years. I plan to “Pay It Forward.”

Erin Curry is a Dance Education Entrepreneur sophomore. She is honored to have been asked to perform in the Dance Education Program performance and is looking forward to dancing with the amazing Dancentral dancers!

Margie Dadamo: I dance because God has let me. I dance to process, convey, and satiate what cannot be said in plain language with the same magnitude. (Dance Education Major, CCSU Alum).

Loren Denise: Without dance, I would not be the person I am today. Dance has provided the path that led me to an amazing community of artists. Being around these artists I can be sustained creatively because of their inspiration and guidance. However, I am very excited to be a part of IRDT, in my first Dance Production.
Adrien Edwards: I dance to learn new things about my physical capabilities and movements while expressing myself. (Biology Major, CCSU Alum).

Chantal Edwards-Matthews: My passion for dance has blossomed from competitive dancing to performing in plays, commercials, and music videos. I hope to continue growing in my career, and dancing with the IRDT is one of the best decisions that I have made to further develop my performing skills.

Amanie Fleeting is a Dance Education sophomore and is excited to share her passion for dance with you.

Neyleanie Franco is majoring in dance education. I can't wait to grow as a dancer with the amazing dance program at CCSU!

Vanessa Fusco is a freshman at CCSU and this is her second semester with Dancentral. I am so excited to perform for everyone! I hope you enjoy the show!

Isabella Galdamez, President of Dancentral, is majoring in Exercise Science and minoring in Dance. This is her 8th semester with Dancentral. She is so excited to share the stage with her fellow dancers, and show the audience how hard they have been working!

Katherine Gibson: This is my second semester with Dancentral. I'm so excited to be able to perform again this semester!

Vilmari Gonzalez is a senior at CCSU, and this is her second semester with Dancentral. She is super excited to dance on stage once again!

Tiyana Griffiths is a Psychology Major with a minor in Dance. This is her fourth semester in Dancentral! Her favorite style of dance is tap.

Danielle Hoague is a sophomore majoring in Elementary Education with a focus on math. This is her 4th semester with Dancentral, and she can't wait for her friends and family to watch her dance!

Johnny Johnson, Jr.: Dance is my escape! A place I go to fuel my soul. It brings me light in my darkest moments and teaches me patience, discipline, and determination. I feel free when I am dancing because all my worries and concerns temporarily leave me. (Co-Op High School Alum).

Samantha Kuruc is excited to share her first Dance Faculty performance with you this semester, and hopes this is the first of many more!

Erica Lavender is a Junior majoring in Secondary Education with a focus in English. This is her 4th semester and she is the Secretary for Dancentral. She is so excited to share the stage with her dance family!

Alexa Lombardo: this is my first semester with Dancentral! I am so excited to be a part of the company and show this semester.

Lacie Low: This is my 4th semester with Dancentral and I'm excited for everyone to see the show!

Sandra Mark: Dance is MEDITATION for me. It has always been a tool used to help me navigate through life. My passion for it is the fire that burns deep in my soul but can still create an element that keeps me so calm that I never burn out of control.
Caitlyn Noble is a freshman in her fourth semester with Dancentral. Her major is Dance Education with a specialization in Entrepreneurship. Her favorite style of dance is Hip Hop.

Yeyris Ortiz: I major in Dance Education K-12. This is my second semester in Dancentral and I can’t wait to have many more!

Akera Robotham: All things come from the Supreme One... so here I am. Life is movement; therefore, I DANCE!

Lorea Rodriguez: This is my 4th semester at Dancentral. I am excited for everyone to see what we have been working on.

Royael Marie Saez. Do not be frightened, friend. Let us dance our way to God.

Elisa Schuder: Elisa Schuder is an alumna of CCSU and is now dancing with IRDTC. Elisa was a Psychology major and Dance minor. She is now a teaching assistant and dances within her community. Follow her on her dance journey on Instagram at @elisa.dancer.official and please enjoy the show!

Denese Smith-Munroe: As an introvert, my love of dance allows me the freedom to express myself in ways outside of my comfort zone. Dancing makes me happy, and it allows me to be free. Dance creates such a comradery where we become family. I relish sharing the stage with my amazing dance family.

Marilyn Tiul is a junior dance education major who serves as Dancentral’s NHSDA officer and loves devoting her time to teaching at her hometown dance studio. She is so appreciative of the opportunities she has been given in her time here at CCSU, and is grateful to share the stage with so many talented dancers and friends!

Karrington Trice: As an artist, my goal is to portray the concept of women’s empowerment, and confidence through both my music and dance. I want to create art that others feel they can relate to and even overcome challenges with. I want to grow with every piece that I create, perform, or present.

Tina Webley: My passion for dancing has given me the opportunity to be expressive and free with movements that flow through my body. Dance is my joy, and I give it my all and work hard to the best of my abilities. I will forever in my heart be a dancer. It’s truly a blessing to dance for so many years.
Production Staff

Director..................................................Pascal Rekoert & Stephen D. Hankey
Technical Director.................................................Scott McKenna
Technical Manager....................................................Tyler Stout
Stage Manager/Dancentral Director..............................Erica Nelson
Dancentral President.................................................Isabella Galdamez
Lighting Designer..................................................Christopher Gallagher
Videographer/Live Stream.................................Spencer Raccio, CCSU Media Center
Program Photography......John Atashian, Robert Cooper, Jaqlin Medlock
Stage Crew..................................................Maddox Bruening, Emmanuel Carter
Cassandra Chambers, Felix Kollar, Miguel Montijo, Luniac Turenne
Poster Design...............................................Patricia Ruiz Ortega
Printing Services...............................................Dan Mark, CCSU Copy Center
Ushers.......................................................Courtesy of CCSU Student Center

Dancentral E-board
President: Isabella Galdamez
Vice President: Sydney Champagne
Treasurer: Nadia Caso
Secretary: Erica Lavender
Sports Council Representative: Karis Bongiolatti
NHSDA Officer: Marilyn Tiul
Public Relations Officer: Danielle Hoague
The CCSU Dance Education Major

Undergraduate Degree Programs
- Dance Education with a Specialization in Entrepreneurship, B.S.
- K-12 Dance Education, B.S.
- Dance Minor

Other Dance Teacher Certification Programs offered:
- Cross-Endorsement in Dance Teacher Certification (for CCSU students)
- Formal Pathway to Dance Teacher Certification (for working educators)

Dance Department Faculty

Pascal Rekoert - Dance Education Program Director
Catherine Fellows - Emerita Dance Education Program Director
Jennifer DelSanto - Department Secretary

Lillian Cook - Hip Hop, Beginner Jazz, Movement for Performers
Cassandra Forsythe - Yoga
Stephen D. Hankey - Principles of Choreography, Contemporary, Afro-Caribbean
Lindsay Hansen - Intermediate Jazz Dance
Ingrid Howe-Green - Fine Arts Across the Curriculum, Elementary Dance Methods
Erica Nelson - Ballet, Modern, Dance Production, Dance History
Ilker Ozbekli - Ballroom

Connect with us!

@CCSUdanceprogram
@islandreflections.dance
@dancentralCCSU

@CCSUdanceded
@dancentralCCSU
Special Thanks To

Dr. Zulma Toro, President

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. James Mulrooney
Interim Dean, School of Education and Professional Studies

Dr. Peter Morano
Chair, Department of Physical Education & Human Performance

Catherine Fellows
Professor Emerita

Carol Ciotto
Interim Assistant Dean for Accreditation & Partnerships
You can support our students!
Your small gesture of kindness has a big impact on their future.

Simply use the QR code
or surf to the donation page through our website,
www.ccsu.edu/dance

"Like the soil, mind is fertilized while it lies fallow,
until a new burst of bloom ensues." — John Dewey