

December 2020

Jacque Sochacki
Diversity and Inclusion Statement

I honor and welcome diversity in my classroom. I celebrate differences of culture, opinion, personal history and belief, and I encourage students to share these with each other. While celebrating each person's unique qualities, I find commonality with my students through the content which we are collectively exploring together.

When learning a new embodied art form, the physicality can generate vulnerable and emotional experiences. That is why I actively build a foundation of trust and respect among my students through community-building activities, small group sessions and written and verbal reflections. Each person in class is encouraged to share their viewpoint. I do not tolerate discrimination of any person on the basis of: race and ethnicity, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, language, culture, national origin, religious commitments, age, (dis)ability status, and political perspective. Here are some of the tangible ways I actively seek inclusion within a learning environment:

- In the beginning of a course, I provide each student a blank notecard where they write down the name and pronoun they are preferred to be called by in class.
- Throughout a course, I will ask students to share personal experiences that occur within class. Any time students are sharing personal experiences, contribution is optional and will not affect the grade of any student.
- I am a resource for my students. If a student feels that their learning is being negatively impacted because of events inside or outside the studio, I ask that my students please communicate that to me.

I am a life-long learner. Though I have stated my intentions to make my classes inclusive and welcoming to all students, I am still learning about diverse perspectives and identities. I ask that students reach out to me if something was said in class by anyone (including myself) that makes them feel uncomfortable. (*Note:* I ensure that this can be done anonymously if the student wishes). I believe we can come to a solution together.

I believe that increased diversity of students and faculty create a stronger and more creative learning atmosphere. I believe that collaboration brings about the best ideas and outcomes. As much as I look forward to teaching each dance class, I also look forward to learning from each student I have the honor of working with.