Lori Ann Weatherly

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Dear Potential Employer,

Since closing my commercial dance studio during the pandemic, my goal has been to teach dance in a primary or secondary school setting. I have worked hard to adapt my skills and attain appropriate credentials to achieve that goal. Currently I am interested in pivoting from this role. Previously I found more challenges in running my own business, guiding staff and students, managing our income and budgeting for recitals and competitions. While I currently teach in my school and work to assist other staff, I am often alone in my responsibilities. It can be freeing to be only organizing myself and my students but it is also the reason I moved back to teaching in a dance studio on weekends. I miss the camaraderie of staff and integrating ideas into action plans.

In 1995, I founded and led a private dance studio, managing a team of up to 30 instructors and staff, ensuring high-quality dance education and compliance with best practices. I directed marketing and advertising initiatives, increasing student enrollment and maintaining client engagement, successfully holding classes for 110+ clients during Covid-19. I managed budget and financial operations, including recruiting, hiring, professional development, and payroll, achieving consistent financial stability and growth. I brought in guest artists from all over the world to increase connections to colleges, professional dance opportunities, and higher level of dance training to Columbia Maryland.

I am currently teaching dance at St. Timothy’s School for my second year in a row. I have attended the IB Dance training. Two students of my students have graduated from IB Dance diploma program/certification. I have re-written the MYP4 and MYP5 curriculum for the school to include ballet, jazz, tap, and modern as well as their historical backgrounds. Students also learn Latin, Hip Hop, Breakdancing, and explore other World Dance styles alongside the history of these dance forms. I teach the students how to research and create in specific dance styles. In addition to coaching and creating choreography for three shows per year, I am working with students on personal projects, service opportunities, and writing extended essays. The depth of teacher training has been significant and has grown me as an artist and helped me learn to be a well-balanced teacher of more than just dance.

For forty years, I have taught ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, modern, musical theater, lyrical, contemporary, hip hop, and acrobatics to students of all skill levels. I hold a bachelor of arts in dance from UMBC, and I hold teaching certificates in two ballet styles. I am certified by the Dance Educators of America (“DEA”) in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, contemporary, acrobatics, and musical theater. With DEA, I have trained under Charles Kelly, Mark Santoro, Louis Kavouras, and Raymond Lukens, the creator of the ABT teaching certifications. I attended a teacher training in August 2024 at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet to learn the curriculum of Marcia Dale Weary for preschool to pre-professional students. I was often working at my own business while balancing work for other fitness centers and schools.

I have a passion for teaching all ages and have taught students aged 12 months to 72 years. I have also developed skills to teach students who learn differently including those with autism, mutism, Asperger’s Syndrome, ADD, dyslexia, and ADHD. I have been using these skills with the students at MacArthur Middle as many of my students learn differently as described in an IEP or 504. I can easily use these skills to assist staff and students alike in this new role.

During the pandemic, I adapted my curriculum to deliver classes online using video conferencing tools like Zoom and Facebook Live as necessary to meet my clients’ needs. Delivering dance training online required numerous adjustments that I found to be a wonderfully challenging opportunity for growth.

Please let me know whether I can provide any further information to assist you in considering my application. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Lori Ann Weatherly