Lori Ann Weatherly

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am excited be pursuing dance employment. My résumé is enclosed. I have taught dance, acrobatics, and musical theater for thirty-six years. For the last twenty-five years, I have owned my own dance studio, pivoting to online teaching on March 14, 2020, finishing in June 2021.

While owning my own studio, I have always pursued new and different challenges in the

form of fitness and dance instruction jobs with other employers. Those experiences demonstrate that I can work within a larger organization. I believe they made me a more understanding boss and a better teacher.

I consider clear communication to be a key to a good working relationship. I have spent the last year working for many different dance and fitness organizations. I trained over zoom and in person in Pilates, Pure Barre fitness, and Reformer training. I have found these new formats challenging and helpful in finding concise and precise speech to describe movement and muscle engagement. It has increased my knowledge of kinesiology and how to teach movement to non-dancers and dancers alike.

I recently started working in the school system locally as a long-term dance sub and substituted for other staff in the building. I’ve learned to improvise a lesson, teach myself the systems needed to take attendance, submit assignments, and assign grades, as well as to pick up where someone left off and press in for progress. I’m no longer afraid to dive in when I don’t understand something and speak directly to anyone who can help me to make progress. I’ve been a cheerleader for the students and staff, reminding us that affirmations make every day brighter. I have taught myself K Pop from tutorials and learned how it incorporates hip hop and street jazz. I have used my Latin dance skills from studying ballroom and Zumba to create combinations the students enjoy. I’ve changed my hip hop style to incorporate more video style approach at the students urging. I’ve learned to create Power Points that include information and videos to lead to a more lively lesson plan.

I teach beginner to advanced ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, modern, musical theater, and lyrical/contemporary and beginner to intermediate hip hop and acrobatics. I hold a bachelor of arts in dance from UMBC, and I hold teaching certificates in two ballet styles and am certified by the Dance Educators of America 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 have a passion for teaching all ages, and have taught students from 12 months to 72 years of age. I also have experience teaching students who learn differently including those with autism, mutism, Aspergers Syndrome, ADD, dyslexia, and ADHD. I look forward to continuing to develop new techniques of teaching and growing my skills.

During the current health crisis, I have adapted my curriculum to deliver classes using online video conferencing tools and Facebook Live for clients who have less technology experience. This mode of delivering dance training has required a different level and type of focus that I have found to be a wonderfully challenging opportunity for growth.

I continue to value person-to-person teaching and I miss choreographing for shows. Choreography was more limited due to the pandemic. I look forward to creating larger dances both at the high school, at studios, and any other opportunities I am afforded. I look forward to teaching partnering when allowed and deemed safe to do so.

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