

BRONZE - Jenna Stevens



I don't just dance because I love it, I dance because it's my passion. Singling out one reason why I dance would be extremely hard to do. One of the many reasons I dance is because I am able to express myself in a way other than words.

Being able to tell a story through the movement of your body is absolutely amazing. Imagining life without dance is so hard to do. Dancing has had such an impact on my life and I can't imagine leaving it behind.

My life long goals for dance are going to college and getting a dance major. I want to do this so I can become a teacher after college. Being able to teach something I love so much to other people who have the same passion would mean the world to me. Being a professional dancer sounds amazing but giving others what was given to me sounds even better.

I believe I'm a good candidate to receive this scholarship because I am so dedicated to dance and I try my hardest in every class to improve. Getting this scholarship would help me be able to go to a summer intensive which will help further my career in dance.

Going to an intensive will give me the additional dance experience I need to be able to teach others. Another reason this scholarship would be



appreciated is because the cost of a summer intensive is very expensive and I would love to help my parents pay for it since they have been so supportive of me and my dancing career.

SILVER - Rebecca Nugent

I was enrolled in my first dance class at the age of 12 which was shortly after I was adopted from Ethiopian and moved to the United States. When I first arrived in the United States, I went through extreme culture shock. I had never shopped in a

grocery store, eaten in a restaurant, or learned to read. Adjusting to life in the United States was difficult. Although I sometimes had trouble fitting in to my new life, I immediately felt at home when I started taking dance lessons.

Learning to dance felt like coming home. Today, after attending morning college classes, I spend the rest of my day either taking dance classes, teaching, or attending rehearsals. No matter what problems I am dealing with in my life, I immediately feel the negativity lift when I enter the dance studio. When I am dancing, I feel whole. I am overcome with such joy when I am dancing that even trying to describe it in this essay brought me to tears.

One of my long term goals for dance would be to dance with a professional company. The size of the company would not matter as long as it offered me the opportunity to dance and train all day long. After my professional career, I would like to become a physical therapist for dancers. As a dancer, I am aware of the lack of physical therapists that specialize in dance. I would also like to someday open my own non-profit dance studio. I know what it is like to love something so much but not have the income required to participate, and because of that I want to open a business that allows people who are less fortunate the opportunity to experience the happiness dance has given me.

If I was awarded any of the DSH scholarships, I would feel a sense of recognition, accomplishment and appreciation. As a dancer, I am always always looking and working towards opportunities such as the DSH scholarships. Being a full time collage student, dancer, and teacher I would be beyond grateful to be awarded a scholarship that would help me continue my dance training.

GOLD - Wynne Pevec



Why I Dance

I dance because making other people feel the same happiness and inspiration that dancing brings me makes me feel like I have done my part in making the world happy and peaceful. When I hear music, I can't help but make up a way to move to it. Different music makes me want to move in different styles of dance and use different emotions. When I choreograph a dance, I will find myself unable to do a step or movement

that I want to include in my choreography and it makes me focus on, and enjoy my dance classes even more.

My goal is to improve as much as possible each time I practice so that I can perform all the moves I want to include in my choreography. Dancing makes me more self-aware of little things, in particular “am I slouching”, and “is my neck lifted”? Dancing is always challenging because there is always something that you can learn no matter how amazing you are. I like to dance because I like being able to feel in my body that I am getting stronger and improving, and because it is a constant competition with the person I was yesterday and the dancer I am today, of what I can, and have improved on.

Long term dance goals

When I am older, I would love to be a dancer. Something that interests me is teaching. I really enjoy helping people achieve little dance goals like the splits or a walkover. I like the way it makes me feel when I help others accomplish things because it makes me feel like I’ve accomplished something myself, and I would love to turn it into a career. I want to perform in as many shows as possible to get more experience. I think that it would be fun to compete in dance competitions because it teaches you that you’re not always perfect and you’re not always the best. Another thing that interests me is being a choreographer. I love choreographing because its a way to put your creativity into movement, and when your choreographing something, it always has a little bit of your personality woven into the dance.

What would it mean to me to be awarded this scholarship

Being awarded this scholarship would make me so so happy and grateful. It would mean that i could attend more dance classes per week and broaden my dancing limits and capability. I have always wanted to go to a summer intensive far far away to experience the cultural differences in contemporary and ballet. I would love to take more dance classes but it is financially difficult to make that happen, so I would definitely use the scholarship money to attend classes and summer intensives.

Honorable Mentions:

Sinai Krigel-Armstrong

Jenica Huddleston



WINNING ESSAYS 2019