



*Dance Education Centered in the Arts*  
Arizona Dance Education Organization

December 5, 2007

TO: District Administration/Principals/Fine Arts Coordinators/Dance Instructors  
FROM: Arizona Dance Education Organization  
RE: National Honor Society for Dance Arts

Dear Sir or Madame:

We are pleased to announce the second year of the *National Honor Society for Dance Arts* (NHSDA), an exciting program available through the Arizona Dance Education Organization, the official state affiliate of the National Dance Education Organization. The primary mission of the NHSDA is to promote and honor outstanding achievement in middle and high school level students and to encourage well-rounded dance artists to become leaders in their communities after high school graduation. **This is the inaugural year for Middle School programs to establish chapters.** In addition, the NHSDA serves to identify those honor students of junior and senior high school age for nomination to the National Dance Education Organization's *Artistic Merit, Leadership and Academic Achievement Award*, the highest dance award in the nation.

***How are chapters established?***

A student chapter of the NHSDA may be set up in any private or public middle or high school, dance academy, performing arts center, or community center with an active dance program serving students 11-18 years of age. To participate in the NHSDA, one must first identify a Chapter Sponsor (i.e., a current NDEO institutional member) and contact the Arizona Dance Education Organization (AzDEO) office to apply for a chapter. Chapter Sponsors are required to coordinate with appropriate school personnel to ensure that induction into the NHSDA is duly acknowledged on students' academic transcripts and in graduation ceremonies.

***How will students benefit?***

Upon induction, all students will receive a certificate of membership in the NHSDA. Students in participating high schools can wear the NHSDA honor cord and honor gold pin during graduation ceremonies. In addition, members may participate in special events or receive mailings generated by the state chapters. Inducted students are encouraged to include their membership in scholarship packets and/or resumes for college or dance employment.

***How can I get more information?***

The NHSDA Chapter Sponsor Handbook is posted on the AzDEO web site at [www.azdeo.org](http://www.azdeo.org). The handbook outlines the procedures for setting up a chapter and the responsibilities of the Chapter Sponsor. For additional information, contact the AzDEO representative, Susan Griffin at 602-764-5352 or at <mailto:sgriffin@phxhs.k12.az.us>.

Participation in the *National Honor Society for Dance Arts* enables schools and school districts to celebrate students' achievement in and dedication to the art of dance and connects inductees to the community of dancers at the state and national levels. We encourage your school district's participation in this worthy program and respectfully request that you take appropriate action to ensure that qualifying students in your district receive recognition upon induction.

Sincerely,

The AzDEO Board of Directors

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