

Hip Hop for Hope, 2014 North Carolina daCi Day of Dance

By Mila Parrish

On April 6, 2014 the University of North Carolina, Greensboro held their first DaCi Day of Dance *Hip Hop for Hope*. The daylong dance workshop was spearheaded by undergraduate dance education students as an extension of UNCG's Dancers Connect community dance program. For the past two years Dancers Connect has offered free dance classes to more than 400 children ages 7-14 years old.

Over the course of the Day of Dance 13 young dancers from the triad area and 22 graduate and undergraduate students learned hip-hop techniques, collaborated and made new friends. Movement classes celebrated all aspects of hip-hop dance including breaking, popping and locking. Students participated in freestyle improvisational dance battles and learned about hip hop history, music and impact on world culture.

Renowned hip-hop artist and choreographer Saza Dimmick led the instruction. Dimmick is the founder and co-artistic director of EPIK Dance Company and is the spokesperson and the Artistic Director of the "Be Kind Crew." Saza represents the Be Kind People Project, a non-profit organization that serves teachers and students nationwide "to improve the social, emotional, and learning environment in our nation's schools by equipping students with character development tools that build positive and healthy relationship skills and foster social and emotional learning."

The participants worked together to create short hip-hop dances that were performed for friends and family at the end of the day. See photos from this amazing event.



Hip hop crew



Saza Dimmick



Dancers partner up

Kids' Corner: daCi USA 5th National Gathering Responses

daCi was a really great way to learn new types of dance and be creative with it. I really enjoyed meeting all different types of people!

--Anna Leipertz age 15

It was a great way to meet new people and experience different dance styles.

--Peyton McKenny age 14

daCi was an amazing experience because we got to learn many different dances and meet different kind of dancers.

--Devin Hale age 12

It was really fun meeting new people and learning different styles of dance.

--Wallis Cole age 13

I thought that daCi was a fun way to experience new types of dance, work with many different people, and learn how to be creative when creating your own work.

--Kiri Kungl age 15

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