



2022 State Competition Judges

Leah Burke (NDADD) began her dancing career at the age of 8 years old. She attended a local studio in Bismarck for 4 years and took classes in ballet, jazz, and tap. She joined her middle schools' dance team at the age of 12, and that was when she discovered her love for drill team. After middle school, she danced for 4 years on her high schools' varsity dance team. While on her high school dance team, she qualified as an All American her sophomore and senior year. After graduating from high school, she attended NDSU and earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minor in Fraud Investigation. She is currently working as an Internal Auditor for Bravera Holdings Corp. She is excited to enter her third year as an NDADD judge. She would like to wish all of teams the best of luck, and she can't wait to see what everyone has to bring to the floor this year!

Gwen Chappell (NDADD) is a charter member of NDADD. She danced in high school for three years and cheered for both high school and UND for a combined six years. Gwen coached a Class B High School dance team for four years and was a Just For Kix program director for seven years, teaching in Minnesota and ND. Gwen has served in many roles on the NDADD board, including secretary, treasurer, vice-president, president, and site manager in Grand Forks. She was the 2002 NDADD Hall of Fame inductee. She has been a North Dakota Certified Judge for 25 years, and she regularly judges invitationals as well as State Competition. She comes to us with judging experience in jazz, high kick, pom, novelty, and Jr high divisions. Gwen hopes that all teams enjoy the competition and wishes them all good luck.

Lynne Cuccia (NDADD) has been dancing since 3 years old. She was active in gymnastics then drill team. Lynne was the choreographer for 2 years and captain her senior year. She started coaching as an assistant for 6 years, then head coach for 9 years. Lynne has been a certified judge for 10 years for NDADD. She has taught tap, ballet, gymnastics and also yoga/pilates and belly dancing. She has also been a member of NDADD for 25 years. Lynn is a master stylist and owns her own salon. She has 4 boys and 4 grandchildren. To all the teams, have fun and good luck!

Lindsey Dockter (NDADD) danced for four years on the Mandan Kachinas dance team. She loves to dance and gets to continue dancing with her friends on The Kaleidoscope Chorus line. The chorus line performs every year at the end of July in the Kaleidoscope Variety Show in Mandan. Lindsey has been a certified judge with NDADD for eleven years and enjoys judging because it keeps her close to the sport she loves. She lives in Mandan with her husband and fur babies. She would like to remind the dancers to dance their heart out and wishes them all good luck.

Michelle Dunn (NDADD) has been involved in the world of dance for most of her life. She danced on her high school dance team at Fargo North holding the positions of captain and choreographer. She competed at Nationals at Walt Disney World on ESPN twice. Upon going to college at NDSU, there was no dance team at that time, so she cheered for the NDSU Cheer Team all four years combining cheer and dance with the team for timeouts and half time performances. During college she coached the Fargo North High School cheer team and was a cheer instructor for the National Cheerleaders Association traveling all across the midwest teaching at summer camps. Michelle coached the NDSU Cheer Team for 2 years and then decided to return to the world of dance and coached the Moorhead Highlights Dance Team for 13 years. She also danced for the semi-pro basketball team, the FM Bees. She has judged various dance competitions over the last 20 years and has been an NDADD judge for the past 4 years. Michelle is also a member of the National Dance Coaches Association which allows her to judge across the nation. Michelle would like to say good luck to all the teams today!

Katie Ebach (NDADD) danced for 14 years starting with studio dance at age 4 and continuing with her school teams in middle and high school. During her time on her high school team, she was a choreographer and a co-captain. After high school, she attended the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and earned her Bachelor's degree.

Currently, she works as a Human Resources Generalist for Applied Engineering Inc. and lives in Dickinson, ND. She is excited to have the opportunity to be a judge for her 3rd year. She cannot wait to see all the teams perform today and wishes them all good luck!

Morgan Hayden (NDADD) grew up in Mandan, ND and danced with her high school dance team. She attended Columbus State University where she earned her bachelors degree in political science and masters in business administration. She is now a small business owner as a State Farm Agent in Bismarck. She lives in Bismarck with her two children. This is her 7th year as an NDADD member. She looks forward to seeing all the dancers compete!

Kristina Holtgard (NDADD) began dancing when she was young and started in the Fargo area Just for Kix programs for many years. After getting into junior high, she started in the school program at Discovery Junior High, continuing in high school for the Fargo South Bruinkix, where she also served as a choreographer. She continued her passion for dance in college where she danced at the University of North Dakota. She currently lives in Fargo and enjoys being able to be involved with her love of dance by judging. This is her fifth year of being a NDADD certified judge. She wishes everyone competing today good luck!

Sarah Johnson (NDADD) began studying the art of dance at the age of three at Jack Dyville's Dance Factory in Williston, North Dakota. She has studied a variety of competitive styles of dance, pageantry and theatre. She's been a part of the competition scene since the age of 7 and has continued to grow and challenge herself in that realm. Her certifications include Jazz Dance Technique & Syllabus by James Robey; Module 1 certification and AcroDance in Acrobatic Arts. She was a part of the North Dakota State University Competition Dance Team in Fargo, ND, competed in "Dancing with FM's Finest" Ballroom Fundraising event, performed at Disney World, the Dakota Wizards basketball games, has been on ESPN, on a cruise line to the Bahamas, and competed in Las Vegas.

Sarah has taught and choreographed for a variety of studios, pageants and local theatre organizations across the state of North Dakota. She is also a North Dakota State University and Minnesota State University Moorhead graduate. For the past seven (6) years, she is currently a certified judge for the NDADD. She and her sister co-founded Kay Michael Lee Studio in 2012 where they are celebrating their 10th Anniversary in the community. Sarah was recognized as one of Williston's greatest achievers in the inaugural Top 20 Under 40 list for the surrounding region.

Michelle Kaufman (NDADD) fell in love with this sport while dancing on her high school dance team and serving as Captain and Choreographer. She coached a middle school team for two years in Bismarck before leaving for college and having the opportunity to study Dance and Management at Western Washington University where she completed her MBA. After graduating she moved back to Bismarck and coached her former high school team for five years before retiring in 2014 as NDADD's coach of the year. She has spent seven years as a Judge and Vice President of the Board of NDADD, as well as serving six years as the Judge Curriculum Coordinator. Michelle lives in Bismarck with her husband and two small children and has an assortment of small businesses. She's honored to be here supporting dance today.

Trisha Kinnischtzke (NDADD) has been involved with dance since 1989. Her experience has included studio, middle school, high school, and collegiate dance team, holding captain and choreographer positions throughout. Trisha received her Bachelor of Science in Paralegal, including a Minor in Theatre Dance. After graduation, Trisha coached a Class A Varsity High School dance team for 11 years, capturing various state and regional titles as well as making finals numerous times at the National level. Trisha has attended various coaching conferences including NDADD, JFK, NDA, and UDA, traveling as far as California to gain outside knowledge and experience. She has judged numerous tryouts and invitationals including cheer, dance team, and studio dance. Trisha was nominated for NDADD Coach of the Year three times and was honored to receive Coach of the Year in 2012. In 2015, Trisha was humbled to be inducted into NDADD's Hall of Fame. She has been involved with NDADD for 17 years, including three years on the executive board, and this is Trisha's third year as a certified judge. Trisha works at the North Dakota Supreme Court for the Chief Justice and resides in Bismarck with her husband and children. Trisha would like to wish all of the teams good luck!

Leslie Koedam (NDADD) Leslie studied dance for 13 years during her childhood and high school years. Her experience includes various styles such as: tap, baton, ballet, jazz, lyrical, street, hip hop, and Broadway. She danced at a couple of different studios while growing up, competing with a company dance team for two years and a high school dance team for four years. Leslie was on the choreography team for two years in high school and received the Star Performer Award at Just For Kix camp. She started judging dance competitions in 2005 and has been a member of NDADD since 2006. Leslie and her family reside in West Fargo. She is excited to see all of the creative dances and wants to remind everyone to HAVE FUN!!

Liz Sanda (NDADD) started dancing in elementary school. She started at a local studio and then danced with her middle school and high school teams. When she started her career as a hairdresser, she coached a high school dance team for three years before starting a family. She now has four school-aged kids and decided to get more involved with NDADD by training to judge. This is her 2nd year as a sanctioned judge, and she has truly enjoyed the judge training process. Being a judge has given her a deeper respect for the sport she fell in love with long ago. Liz would like to wish all teams good luck, and remember to enjoy every moment on the dance floor.

Desiree Schneider (NDADD) Desiree's love for dance started at a young age. When she was little, she would watch The Lawrence Welk Show and Medora Musical dreaming of someday becoming one of those professional dancers. She lived out that dance dream for the next 21 years, performing in Beauty and the Beast, Let's Dance Studio at age 3, continuing with 9 years in Just for Kix, 3 years with studio classes and dancing on her middle and high school dance teams in Bismarck, where she was head choreographer and captain. In college, she had the privilege of continuing her dance career and returned to her high school dance team as a Jr. Varsity coach for 5 years. She has been a NDADD board member for 11 years and NDADD judge for 8 years, and continues her dance career as State Judge Coordinator. She currently lives in Horace with her boyfriend and dog Dotti as well welcoming her first baby on the way this coming June 2022! She keeps busy working at the Fargo VA as an Advanced Medical Assistant. She would like to remind all the dancers to Never Give UP on their dance dream! Best of Luck Today Dancers!

Wendy Steidler (NDADD) danced with her middle and high school teams, and during her senior year she opted to help assist her coach in coaching the high kick team. During college, Wendy was a member of the Dakota Wizards Magic Dance Team for 3.5 years and she also was an assistant coach for the Century Centennas from 1999 to 2001. Wendy has been a certified judge for nine years and a member of NDADD for 14 years. Wendy lives in Mandan with her family where she works as a stylist. She is the proud Marine Mom of Lance Corporal Dreyson Owens stationed in Yuma, AZ. Wendy would like to wish good luck to all the teams today.

Megan VanSon (NDADD) was born and raised in Dickinson, ND. Megan started her love for dance at the age of four through studio dance. Throughout her dance career she had the privilege of taking classes from many teachers and coaches from across the country. She has studied jazz, tap, ballet, modern, contemporary, pop, African, liquid, geometrics, drill, and hip hop. Megan participated in her own high school dance team for her junior and senior year. After high school, she moved to Fargo where she coached for the Ben Franklin Middle School for two years. Shortly after she moved back to Dickinson and coached their varsity team for six years. In 2015 Megan was honored to be voted in as the Coach of the Year. Megan loved coaching for North Dakota associated teams but in the year 2014 she opened her own dance studio and named it Artistic Exchange Dance Studio. Going into her eighth year as the owner she wants to remain focused on her business and working with all ages of dancers in Dickinson. She is so thrilled to be able to remain a part of NDADD as she took on the role of NDADD's Judge Coordinator two years ago and looks forward to her continued judging. She would like to wish all the teams the best of luck this weekend!