



**Full Name: Kendra Lee Smith, MADE**

### **Biography**

Kendra has been passionately teaching dance in public schools and dance studios throughout the state of MD for over 15 years, after performing with local modern and ballet companies, and is currently the Dance Teacher at John F. Kennedy High School (JFKHS) in Montgomery County, MD. She has been a member of MDEA since 2008, and most recently a member of the inaugural cohort to graduate from the Master of Arts Dance Education program at Towson University. Her pedagogical beliefs and teaching methodologies are grounded in historically accurate, culturally diverse, accessible practices that allow student choice and opportunities for improving overall literacy.

Recently, Kendra, along with ClancyWorks Modern Dance Company, piloted a successful multi-generational dance program at JFKHS called “Feeling Rejuvenated Using Intergenerational Techniques” (FRUIT). Members of the Jewish Aging Council attended weekly classes with Kennedy students, allowing participants opportunities to create movement experiences and create lasting relationships.

When she isn't teaching, Kendra enjoys being outdoors with her family and her two double doodle dogs.

### **Statement of interest and intent**

I want to begin by sharing my gratitude for being nominated as a candidate for Secretary Understudy on the Board of MDEA. I feel that my experiences teaching dance in MD public schools have provided opportunities for me to gain the working knowledge necessary to actively contribute to discussions, influence policies and positively support the impactful work of advocacy for Dance Education. I pride myself on being detail-oriented, thorough, communicative and sincere in all I do. I have a genuine desire to embrace a new role that will elevate my participation in conversations that help support dance educators. I am eager to share my ideas for how dance pedagogical practices can evolve so that the knowledge we desire to impart on students is more accessible for all students, particularly English Language Learners (ELL), and

shed light on how dance educators can help administrators see that their positions are indispensable to the communities they serve. Teaching dance in a culturally diverse county such as Montgomery County has deepened my ability to help many students overcome barriers to learning each day, and recognize the critical role I play in providing them with meaningful experiences and creative tools necessary for taking ownership of learning.

Additionally, I will work to ensure that members' contributions are accurately recorded and ask clarifying questions when needed. I recognize the level of responsibility that comes with serving on such a prestigious committee and will serve to the best of my ability if given the opportunity to serve as Secretary Understudy.