



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Laura Drangmeister
505-888-5877

NDI-NM Programs Result in Fitness, Confidence and Academic Excellence

2008-2009 Evaluation Reveals Organization Has Significant Positive Impact on Children

Albuquerque, NM (October 12 2009) – The National Dance Institute of New Mexico (NDI-NM) released its 2008-2009 evaluation results today. Conducted by independent evaluator, RMC Research Corporation, the results revealed statistically significant gains in NDI-NM students compared to their peers in the areas of physical fitness, confidence, tenacity, excellence, doing one’s best and working hard.

Evaluation of NDI-NM’s programs over the past four years has consistently revealed students’ benefit from programs. However, this year’s results show even greater positive gains and reveal that the longer students participate in NDI-NM, the more significant gains they experience.

“We see children’s lives change as a result of NDI-NM programs,” says Russell Baker, NDI-NM Executive Director. “Evaluation results confirm that NDI-NM’s model of arts education teaches children lifelong skills that result in improvements to their health and academics.”

NDI-NM’s focus on health and fitness is important as New Mexico has the tenth highest rate of overweight youth in the country. Reading and math skills are also essential to lifelong success. Evaluation results over the years show children who participate in NDI-NM’s advanced training programs also have higher reading and math scores than their peers. Additionally, students build confidence through NDI-NM contributing to their achievement.

“Confidence, tenacity, excellence and hard work are all factors necessary in the next generation of leaders,” says Senator Jeff Bingaman. “NDI-NM helps children develop the skills needed to succeed in school and life.”

The 2008-2009 evaluation report also highlighted that teachers and administrators see positive outcomes in children’s ability to set goals, teamwork, positive risk taking, patience, engagement with school, commitment, responsibility and social skills as a result of NDI-NM programs.

“I find my students more willing to follow directions and to work hard at skills they find difficult,” says Sophia Komets, an elementary school teacher. “With an increase in their self-concept, my students are in a better position to take academic risks and to trust that goals can be achieved.”

###

About NDI-NM

NDI-NM is founded with the knowledge that the arts have a unique power to engage and motivate children. The purpose of their distinctive programs is to help children develop discipline, a standard of excellence, and a belief in themselves that will carry over into all aspects of their lives. In 1997 NDI-NM began serving New Mexico schools. Currently, 76 public schools participate in NDI-NM's dance programs with 90 schools on a waiting list. All outreach programs are offered free of charge to students and their families. In addition to public school programs, NDI-NM operates a 33,000 square foot facility, The Dance Barns, in Santa Fe, NM. www.ndi-nm.org.

About NDI-NM's Evaluation

NDI-NM's evaluation was conducted by the independent, third party RMC Research Corporation. Using surveys, RMC Research Corporation collected data from 4,317 students, 198 classroom teachers and 30 principals throughout New Mexico from September 2008 through May 2009. Statistics of the children in NDI-NM were: 76% qualified for free or reduced price lunch, 63% Hispanic, 18% Anglo, 17% Native American, 1% African-American and 1% Asian-American. A copy of the evaluation brief is available at www.ndi-nm.org.