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National Dance Institute of New Mexico to return Set.6

The National Dance Institute of New Mexico returns to Silver City and Grant County for its 14th year Sept. 6-23.

More than 200 students from Jose Barrios, G.W. Stout, Harrison Schmitt and Sixth Street elementary schools in Silver City; Central Elementary School in Santa Clara; Guadalupe Montessori School in Silver City; La Plata Middle School; and Silver High School will participate.

Students will rehearse daily- during school hours- under the direction of Cristiane C. De Oliveira, NDI-NM residency director, and Emily Lowman, associate residency director.

Two after-school programs- the SWAT and Celebration teams- are included in the residency.

The SWAT team is comprised of students who show special promise and are given the opportunity to learn more rigorous and challenging routines than those being taught in the regular classes, according to a news release.

The Celebration team is a group of advanced NDI-NM dancers who have graduated from elementary school, but who are invited to keep dancing with NDI due to their continued growth as performers and peer leaders, the release stated.

At the end of the institute, the students will have three performances, Friday, Sept. 23, at the Western New Mexico University Fine Arts Center Theatre. Two matinees will be held, at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., concluding with an evening performance, at 7:30.

The theme will be "Route 66: Legends of the Road," described as a "tribute to the people, places and times of the famous highway which winds from Chicago, Ill., to Los Angeles, Calif.," the release stated.

"The performance represents freedom, determination, adventure and the promise of a better tomorrow," de Oliveira said.

The NDI-NM dance education program will teach more than 5,600 students in 74 in-school, after-school and residency programs in the state during the school year, according to the release.

"NDI-NM was founded in the belief that the arts have a unique power to engage and motivate children, helping them to develop discipline, a standard of excellence, and a belief in themselves that will carry over into all aspects of their lives," a spokesman said. "It has been documented that the program results in improvements in grades, behavior and standardized test scores for at-risk children."

The program is being funded by Phelps Dodge Mining Co., Texas-New Mexico Power Co., Silver Consolidated Schools, Cobre Consolidated Schools, Grant County Excavation, NDI New Mexico and donations from the community, raised by the Silver City/Grant County NDI Support Committee.

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