

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021**

## **Dance & Inclusion, Diversity and Equity**

**Cheyla Clawson, Wichita State University**

**Registration Cap: 50**

### **Workshop Overview:**

This workshop will be focused on sharing the first year experience of Clawson as Chair and co-creator of an Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Alliance (IDEA). The alliance is composed of current students, alumni and faculty of color in the School of Performing Arts at Wichita State University. The first session will focus on the original creation and overall format of the IDEA. The second session will focus on the collection of data and results focused on program curriculum to be utilized for implementing strategies and changes for more inclusive, diverse, and equitable curriculum. The third and final session will focus on the collection of data and results focused on programming to be utilized for implementing strategies and changes for more inclusive, diverse and equitable approaches to guest artists, types of supplemental training, and festivals.

### **Workshop Content:**

#### **Session Details:**

##### **Session 1: Foundations and Possibilities**

- Session 1 will focus on an overview of the approach of Clawson's development of a new alliance and statement in the School of Performing Arts at Wichita State University. After reflection on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion within their school several faculty created an alliance to include current faculty, students and alumni of color. In its first year, the Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Alliance (IDEA) focused on the student experience and culture of programs (dance, theatre and musical theatre), and curriculum and programming for each program area. As chair of IDEA, Clawson facilitated bringing in an outside anti-racism expert to engage faculty, staff and students further and to prioritize creating an action plan based on systemic issues found by IDEA. The alliance also led to a pilot program focused on social justice residencies and discussion of a future faculty line. The session will include time for a brief Q&A.

##### **Session 2, Part I: Identifying Concerns and Implementing Strategies**

- Clawson will share the overall concerns discussed in her program's IDEA focused on student experience/culture, curriculum, and programming. She will provide a strategy table including some of these topics. – 15 minutes
- Breakout Rooms focused on identifying concerns and strategies for change focused on curriculum with a brief share. – 30 minutes
- Breakout Rooms focused on identifying concerns and strategies for change focused on programming with a brief share. – 30 minutes

##### **Session 2, Part II: Identifying Concerns and Implementing Strategies**

- Breakout Rooms focused on identifying concerns and strategies for change focused on student experience/school culture. – 30 minutes
- Wrap up of Session 2/Time for Breakout Groups to Meet. – 30 minutes

##### **Session 3: Collaborative Learning and Community Building**

- Each breakout group will be asked to present their strategies for implementing change (actionable

items) focused on the student experience/culture, curriculum, and programming at their institutions. Throughout the presentations, Clawson will collate themes presented among the groups and share an overall synopsis at the end of the session. – 40 minutes

- Group themes, ending Q&A (optional) – 30 minutes
- After the session ends, the entire group will be encouraged to continue to discuss and share issues and strategies focused on inclusion, diversity, equity and access through a shared Google Drive document.

### Schedule:

TIME—all times are in Eastern Time	SESSION
12:00-1:00pm	Session 1: Foundations and Possibilities
1:00-1:15pm	Break
1:15-2:30pm	Session 2, Part I: Identifying Concerns and Implementing Strategies
2:30-3:00pm	Break
2:30-4:30pm	Session 2, Part II: Identifying Concerns and Implementing Strategies
4:00-4:15pm	Break
4:15-5:00pm	Session 3: Collaborative Learning and Community Building
5:00-5:30pm	Group themes, ending Q&A

### Space/ equipment requirements for participants:

N/A

### Presenter Bio:

Cheyla Clawson, MFA-Dance/MA-Sociology (University of Oklahoma/Wichita State University - WSU) is an Assistant Professor of Dance at WSU. Ms. Clawson’s modern pedagogy is focused on Horton Technique and she attended the Horton Dance Technique Certificate Program 2013-2016, 2020 at The Ailey School. Her two duets, AnamChara (2014) and nosuchSymbiosis (2016) were invited to the ACDA National College Dance Festival in Washington, D.C. Cheyla presented her latest research focused on community integration curriculum in dance degrees at The American Dance Symposium 2020 through The Joyce Theatre/NYU in January of 2020 and was invited to present at the International Future(s) of Dance Education(s) in Norway. She is currently directing a dance film “She Moved the Prairie” focused on female Kansas farm labor practices in the early 20th century supported as a Tallgrass National Residency Artist 2020. Cheyla is working in collaboration with WSU Sociology Professor Twyla Hill on funded research focused on memories of home of Kansas women in assisted living communities in the Wichita, Kansas area and is a community facilitator for Artist Inc., a program focused on business and the arts for mid-career artists (Mid America Arts Alliance). She currently serves as the Associate Director of the School of Performing Arts. As a faculty of color, Cheyla is chairing the inaugural Wichita State University School of Performing Arts Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Alliance (IDEA).

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