Classic Dance Ensemble (CDE) is a non-profit, co-ed student dance company founded in 1989 by Prairie View A&M University students, Bongi Sithole, and Jennifer Adams. The mission of CDE is to achieve excellence through dance, by portraying a commitment to discipline, focus, dedication and goal setting. The mission of CDE concurs with and supports the PVAMU motto of, “Prairie View A&M University Produces Productive People”.

Many of CDE performances include The Mr. and Miss Prairie View Pageants, the Queens Ball, Pantherland Day, productions with the Charles Gilpin Players (Music and Theatre), and a host of campus functions that are sponsored by various sororities, fraternities, and other campus organizations. CDE also performs for various departments and colleges on campus, which strengthens the connective link between academics and the arts. Sherry Harper is currently the Artistic and Executive Director of CDE.

How Can I Join CDE?

Classic Dance Ensemble auditions are held at the end of every school semester. Placement in Company is open to all majors and minors. During the audition process, please be prepared to learn a jazz and/or modern dance combination.

For more information concerning CDE, or the Dance Minor, Contact:

Ms. Sherry Harper
Dance Instructor
Vice President, Black College Dance Exchange, Inc.
Artistic & Executive Director,
Classic Dance Ensemble
Health & Human Performance Department
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CDE has made its mark within the Waller, Harris, Grimes, Fort Bend County communities with powerful performances and programs. Some performance locations include Texas Southern University, Sam Houston State University; Sealy, Jack Yates, Barbara Jordan, Navasota, and Sam Houston High Schools, Hempstead, Cypress and Waller Middle and Elementary Schools; the Department of Veterans Affairs, African-American Arts Council of Houston, Giddings Schools of Corrections, and the Miss Black Houston Pageant.

CDE also has a community service program entitled the “Angelita Williams Workshop” which partners company members with Waller and Hempstead students in the dance studio. This program is extremely beneficial to those company members who plan to go into the field of dance instruction. CDE also has an annual Spring Dance Workshop held at Prairie View A&M University. This workshop offers master classes from dynamic instructors in various genres of dance including: Ballet, African, Jazz, Hip Hop, Cheer, Liturgical, Latin, and Contemporary Modern Dance.

Dance Minors

Dance Minors are required to work with CDE for a minimum of two consecutive semesters. This may be in the form of an actual CDE member, apprentice or production crew.

Dance Minor Course Requirements

Health & Human Performance (HUPF)
Modern Dance I/II-1 credit each
Modern Jazz I/II-1 credit each
Folk and Ballroom I/II-1 credit each
Ballet I/II-1 credit each
Tap Dance I/II -1 credit each
Body Mechanics-1 credit each
Fundamentals of Dance/2 credits
Athletic Injuries & CPR/2 credits
Independent Study in Performance - 1
Independent Study in Choreography - 1
Music (MUSC)
Music in Contemporary Life /3 credits
Arts (ARTS)
Intro to Visual Arts/3 credits
Drama (DRAM)
Stage Movement/3 credits

Total Hours: 26

Genres of Dance:
Ballet, Ballet en Pointe, Tap, Jazz, Contemporary Modern, Lyrical, Folk & Ballroom, Latin, African, as well as other cultural stylized dance forms.