



OWNER, HEAD INSTRUCTOR

NIKOLE RUSSELL

Nikki began studying dance at the age of 5 under Donna Plank, and it was clear from an early age that it was her passion. She began assisting with classes at the age of 13 and continued to help out teaching at the studio through high school and college. After graduating from the University of Iowa, she was given the opportunity to take over the studio, and it couldn't have been a more exciting venture. Nikki became the owner and head instructor at The Dance Co. (now Marion Dance Co) in 1999.

Nikki is Dance Masters of America trained and certified by test to teach Ballet, Jazz, Tap and Modern for beginning through advanced levels. She also has over 200 hours of teacher training in yoga, which has completely transformed how she is able to instruct her students on the mechanics of their bodies and how alignment can shape them, as well as teaching her students how to maintain safety when they dance. Nikki is also a certified Acrobatic Arts instructor. She pursues continuing education every single year by traveling to places like Chicago and New York to keep up with new trends and continue to better herself as an instructor. Because she values the community and family aspect of her studio, after all these years Nikki still loves having a small studio. She gets to know each of her families, and the goals and outcomes of her students are extremely important to her. If her student wants to make their dance team, show choir, or star in their musical at school, she wants to do what she can to help them reach that goal.

Her philosophy is to provide quality, disciplined instruction, while building confidence and making sure her students are having fun. She also values showing her students that maintaining balance with their school and extracurricular activities and still receiving excellent dance training is absolutely possible. Nikki has had many students go on to dance collegiately and professionally, and she takes pride in watching every one of her dancers grow and pursue their passions. The relationships she's built with students have formed lifelong friendships and brought her endless joy and happiness. Sharing her love and passion for dance has truly made her life fulfilling.