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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Luna Dance & Creativity announces  
Jasmine Douville as the recipient of  
bell hooks Dance Education Scholarship**

Berkeley, CA – Luna Dance & Creativity announces **Jasmine Douville** as the 2024-25 recipient of the **bell hooks Dance Education Scholarship**. The scholarship supports Douville’s enrollment in California State University’s East Bay (CSUEB) Dance Teaching Credential Program, which provides a clear pathway for a dancer with an undergraduate degree to acquire the coursework and training to teach dance full-time in a California public school.

Douville has been the Assistant Principal at Caliber Beta Academy, a West Contra Costa Unified School District Charter School (grades TK-8) in San Pablo, California, for the last four years. “I am getting my Single Subject Dance Credential now,” she says, “because I can remember a time when it didn’t exist.... For me, it was important to get this credential so I could stamp for my students that dance is educational content that all students need daily.”

Douville “was determined to teach” since she was seventeen years old. Douville grew up in Bakersfield, CA, “as the only black kid in my class.” “I always felt alone,” she reflects. “I had to work twice as hard to not be singled out constantly. Oftentimes, my teachers who were always white would say I was too loud.... Anytime I spoke up, I was told to be quiet, and a note would go home to my mother.

“I never wanted another black kid to go through what I went through. I knew that if I had had just one black teacher, I would have felt like I belonged [and] someone could see me for who I was, a talkative, smart black girl who loved to read, dance and write. My mission in life is to be the black teacher that I wish I had growing up.”

As a dance educator, Douville intends to “show students of color the intricate ways in which dance can move your soul and how without it, your sense of expression can feel lost. In essence, teaching dance in underserved communities, particularly for kids of color, is not just about learning steps or mastering techniques,” she says. “It’s about unlocking doors of opportunity, fostering resilience, and empowering future generations to dance their way towards a more inclusive, vibrant, and equitable society.”

Douville credits Dr. Albirda Rose and Ms. Alicia Pierce from San Francisco State University for shaping her life in dance. They taught her “how to move, how to breathe, how to be my best self and dance through any pains I was feeling.... They taught me about being a Black woman dancer in America and how dance can support me mentally, spiritually and financially.”



Luna offers the bell hooks scholarship to inspire and support dance educators who are dedicated to working in vulnerable, under-resourced communities. The award is named after the writer, teacher, and philosopher, whose life-long activism with issues of race, class, and gender and whose pedagogical theories are aligned with the Luna’s educational and social justice values.

The scholarship includes partial tuition funds, 6 hours of coaching with Luna faculty, and a copy of the *Body, Mind, Spirit in Action, ed. 2* by Luna Co-Executive Director, Patricia Reedy. The scholarship is intended for dancers who seek to teach in an urban public school in the San Francisco Bay Area upon graduation. Teachers from historically marginalized communities are encouraged to apply.

To learn more about this dance credential program, visit <https://www.csueastbay.edu/theatre/theatre-and-dance-credential-program.html> and contact Dr. Eric Engdahl, Chair of the Teacher Education Department, at [Eric.Engdahl@csueastbay.edu](mailto:Eric.Engdahl@csueastbay.edu). For scholarship information, contact the CSUEB financial aid office: <https://www.csueastbay.edu/financialaid/contact-us.html>

### **About Luna**

Luna Dance & Creativity is a nationally recognized arts leader and institution that supports families, artists, teachers, leaders, schools, communities, and arts organizations through

programs that promote creativity and self-determination through the transformative power of dance. Founded in 1992, Luna has become the most comprehensive dance education organization on the West Coast. Luna provides education services to the youth and families who are the least likely to receive the benefits of an arts education, including children and caregivers in the dependency system and living in poverty; youth living in neighborhoods and attending schools with little to no access to arts programs; and students diagnosed with autism, special learning needs, and other disabilities. Luna serves children, families, and dance practitioners through partnerships with schools, social service agencies, and arts and cultural organizations.

Last year, 419 teachers, 29,021 students, 3,282 with disabilities from twelve CA counties (Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Monterey, West Contra Costa, Orange, Madera, San Diego, Riverside, Santa Clara), seventeen national school districts (Oakland, Berkeley, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Lafayette, Santa Monica, Santa Barbara, Goleta, San Rafael, Monterey Peninsula, Madera, Alameda, Hayward, Novato, Chicago, New York City's #9 and #75), and two international mentorships (Brazil and Canada) received Luna's programs and resources. In addition, Luna provided direct services to 68 families and three governmental agencies in the Bay Area. Discover more at [lunadancecreativity.org](http://lunadancecreativity.org).