



May 31, 2012

**NJLTE Artistic Director and Dancers win NJ Governor's Awards
Conner Bormann Receives NDEO Honor**

NJLTE is proud to announce that Artistic Director Nancy Turano and three NJLTE dancers were honored with 2012 New Jersey Governor's Awards in Arts Education with a special ceremony held May 10 at the War Memorial in Trenton, NJ.

Artistic Director Nancy Turano was named the 2012 Distinguished Teaching Artist for Dance, as one of six teaching artists of varying disciplines from across the state of New Jersey awarded for excellence in arts education by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA). In addition, NJLTE dancers **Conner Bormann** and **Kara Menendez** each received one of the two annually awarded Dance NJ Student Awards for Artistic Excellence and Leadership in Dance, and **Shannon Scully** was chosen by NJPAC to receive its Excellence in Dance award, the only award of its type given for dance. NJLTE also congratulates **Conner Bormann** on winning the NDEO Artistic Merit, Leadership & Academic Achievement Award - the highest student dance award in the nation!



NJLTE Artistic Director Nancy Turano with Conner Bormann & Kara Menendez at the Governor's Award Ceremony

The Governor's Awards in Arts Education began in 1980 to promote awareness and appreciation of the arts, recognizing the creativity, talent and leadership of the award winners. National and statewide organizations select the students for their exemplary work in the arts and the leaders for exceptional commitment and contribution to arts education. All 2012 awardees received a medal and proclamation with the Seal of the State of New Jersey, signed by Governor Chris Christie. Assistant Secretary of State Carol Cronheim presented the awards.

The importance of their accomplishments was certainly not lost on NJLTE's student awardees. In reflecting on the experience, Conner, Kara and Shannon highlighted how dancing with NJLTE has helped them to achieve their goals as artists and scholars. Conner explained, "the professional environment and positive energy that Ms. Turano creates at NJLTE has strengthened my focus in both class and on stage. I feel it is so incredibly important to give consistent thanks and the utmost respect to those who have helped me grow as a dancer both physically and intellectually. I cannot take full credit for this award, for this award would not be mine without those teachers and mentors."

In Kara's words, "everything I have done through the Ensemble has pushed me to take risks and has consistently challenged me to help me improve as a dancer and be the best that I can be." For Shannon, the award had a special significance. "My first reaction to the news of the award was complete shock. I had no idea I was even nominated until NJPAC sent me a letter saying I had won! I am sincerely thankful that Ms. Turano dedicates her time to helping us make our dreams come true," she said.



NJLTE Artistic Director Nancy Turano with Shannon Scully at the NJ Governor's Award Ceremony.