



Tevita L. Williams-Dumas is a native of Memphis, TN who has studied dance for over 45 years. She is the Artistic Director & Founder of **T. L. Williams Academy of Dance, LLC, River City Dance Company**, and a tenured teacher with Memphis Shelby County Schools (MSCS) as the elementary Movement/Dance Education Specialist at Rozelle Creative & Performing Arts (CAPA) Elementary School (28 years). Tevita earned a BFA in Dance Performance from Southern Methodist University, teacher certification through the University of TN @ Knoxville, a Master of Science in Education Degree from the University of TN @ Martin, and an Education Specialist Degree from Walden University. Additionally, Tevita received her dance and theatrical training from Memphis Children's Theater, Ballet Memphis, Memphis Park Commission Entertainers, and River City Ballet Company.

Tevita is an award-winning teacher & choreographer who has several awards, grants, and recognitions to her credit. However, Tevita's most important job is wife and mother. She's been married to Shedrick for 21 years and they have a 19-year-old son, Allen. Tevita's credits her success/achievements to her faith in God. She is a member of Cummings Street Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. E. Marcel Jones, Pastor.

Tevita's passion is instructing and training young dancers through arts & academic integration. As a dedicated arts supporter & educator, she provides approximately \$10,000 in scholarships each year (pre-Covid) to young aspiring dancers in River City Dance Company by choosing to give up a yearly salary as Artistic Director so that she can provide assistance to dancers and their families. She is an avid supporter and fundraiser for the American Cancer Society as team captain for Dancers Against Cancer – Memphis and the American Heart Association, Lifetime member of Girl Scouts of America – Troop#10265, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Dance Educators of America, Southern Association of Dance, and National Dance Education Organization.

Since her first day as at Rozelle, Nov. 17, 1994, many have often heard her say, *"I can honestly say that I have never left work saying, I had a bad day. It may have been hectic, busy, and full of surprises; but nothing ruins my day."* She also says, *"I have been blessed and truly have a passion for my work and am committed to giving children an arts experience that will enrich their lives one step at a time."*