

Virtual school allows young Wylie dancer to pursue her career, passion for performing arts

December 2015 (Wylie, TX) — In many ways, **Kali Kleiman** is a typical middle schooler. She's got homework, a megawatt smile that's undimmed by braces, blonde curls, and plenty of giggling girlfriends to spend time with. But the fact is that the hard-working Wylie seventh-grader is anything but your average kid. For evidence of that, just check out her schedule, which includes upwards of 30 hours a week spent training in dance (mostly ballet) and acting at **The Dallas Conservatory (TDC)**. That doesn't include the time spent traveling for prestigious international dance competitions, appearances in television commercials and professional productions (including dancing the role of Clara in the upcoming Dallas Youth Ballet performance of "The Nutcracker" at Dallas City Performance Hall).

Kali's also one of the 10,000 Texas students currently enrolled in a "virtual" public school – in this case, **iUniversity Prep (iUP)** of **Grapevine-Colleyville ISD**, a tuition-free program available to any Texas resident in 4th through 12th grade. "Enrolling Kali in iUniversity Prep has been one of the best decisions we've made," said Megan Kleiman, Kali's mother. "It's the main reason she's able to do the things she loves to do and pursue her career without sacrificing her academic education."

"A perfect choice"

About a half dozen iUniversity Prep students are also members of The Dallas Conservatory (TDC), an audition-only dance and performing arts facility located in the Park Cities area of Dallas. Though in the beginning stages, the inter-school partnership between iUP and TDC has showed so much promise that TDC was motivated to hire a full-time education director, Destineè Grobe, to help TDC students participate in iUP programs while they're at the studio.

"Between Destineè's supervision, iUniversity Prep's low teacher-student ratio, the one-on-one attention Kali gets from her teachers, and the flexible schedule, she is really thriving," said Kleiman. "Her grades have improved tremendously from when she was enrolled in traditional school or other online programs, she's learning more, and we get to see her more often. Previously, between school, commuting for training, work, and travel, she was on a non-stop schedule that didn't allow for much rest or family time. Now that she's at iUniversity Prep, she's got a much healthier school-dance-life balance."

Says **Dr. Kaye Rogers**, iUniversity Prep's Director of Virtual Education: "Highly motivated students like Kali and the other TDC students tend to do very well in our program. It gives them the option to attend classes from any location at any time in an academically rigorous environment that encourages exploration and achievement, without having to slow down the pursuit of their non-school interests."

Adds **Jacqueline Porter, Artistic Director for The Dallas Conservatory**: "The flexibility of the virtual school model makes it an excellent option for our students, and iUniversity Prep's top-notch academics make it the perfect virtual school for our students to select. We look forward to growing this relationship for many years to come."

More about Kali: (resume available on request).

- 7th grade at iUniversity Prep. Student at The Dallas Conservatory. Company member, Dallas Youth Ballet. Formerly with The Dance Company of Wylie.
- Ballerina/Dancer/Model
- Appeared as Clara in "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 6, 2015, at Dallas City Performance Hall.
- Has appeared in regional/national commercials.
- Youth American Grand Prix Hope Award for 2015 in the Dallas Regionals and selected to attend the 14-day New York Finals.
- Aspirations include someday joining The School of American Ballet and dancing a coveted role in The New York City Ballet.

About The Dallas Conservatory:

The Dallas Conservatory (TDC) is a private performing arts school for talented and serious students of dance and theater, ages 8-18. Founded in 2010 by Jacqueline Porter, TDC offers world-class training and performance opportunities to prepare for a possible professional career. [Learn more.](#)

About iUniversity Prep:

iUniversity Prep opened in August 2013 as GCISD's newest school. The academy is a tuition-free, state-accredited online public school operated by Grapevine-Colleyville ISD and is one of the few public virtual education solutions in the state offering elementary, middle and high school programs. It provides rigorous academics under the guidance of engaging instructors all within a collaborative school community. iUniversity Prep offers an inspiring, flexible learning environment that encourages and prepares students to be college and career ready by supporting learning through technology, fostering citizenship, and teaching the importance of mutual respect in a virtual environment.

All students living in Texas who are in fourth through 12th grades are eligible to enroll in iUniversity Prep. Students can attend class, take tests and complete coursework from any location as long as they have access to a mobile device and an internet connection. To inquire about enrollment or learn more: 855-779-7357 or visit www.iuniversityprep.org.