

Caring attitude has helped UDA grow

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Universal Dance Academy is a dance school where both competition and casual form a comfortable combination. The common thread: a desire to learn.

From beginning ballerinas to the career-minded contemporary, dancers with a variety of interest levels and ambitions are drawn to UDA. The school has built a reputation for working with each dancer to be the best they can be.

Eighteen years ago, Vivian Ball and Angela Beery built their school on a foundation of family friendliness and a welcoming environment. The business started quietly with a small, one-room studio on the second floor of a building just east of 27th and O streets.

The young entrepreneurs' business plan – to work with every student, from casual to career-minded – quickly bore fruit. The first 15 years resulted in three expansions, and a subsequent search for larger, new quarters.

Two years ago, the search ended on the north end of the Centro Plaza, 48th and R streets, where UDA swung open the doors to four large studios, each with its own waiting room. The 7,500 square feet of floor space is triple the size of their former site.

Through the expansion into a new studio, Vivian and Angela haven't lost sight of the business plan that got them to where they are today: to ensure that each student has an enriching experience and feels good about what they've learned.

It's that passion to share their love of dance that keeps the studio's 400 to 500 students coming back for more.

A great example of that feeling of inclusiveness is personified at UDA's annual recital at the Lied Center. The studio opens the recital to all students.

"All 350 ballet students danced on the stage for the grand final of the ballet," said Vivian. "It was a special sight to see."

UDA takes pride in being a popular training center for high school dance team members and for those to aspire to pass their high school team's tryouts.

In addition, UDA has a wide variety of children's classes including Wee Go Together, Creative Movement, Tap, Jazz, Hip-Hop and Tumbling.

If you're looking to get your little ones into a fun dance activity, if you're aspiring to make your high school dance team or would like to take dance to the competitive or professional level Universal Dance Academy will help your child meet their goals.

To discover why UDA has become one of Lincoln's most successful dance schools, check out their open house from 1 to 4 p.m. today (Saturday). A second open house is planned from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19.