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Florida Dance Association Presents Recognition Awards to Tampa's Gretchen Ward Warren and Tallahassee's Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

Tampa, Fla. (May 24, 2010) – Florida Dance Association, Florida's statewide dance service organization, will present two awards on Saturday, June 19 during the Florida Dance Festival in Tampa at the University of South Florida School of Theatre and Dance. An award for **Lifetime Achievement in Dance** will be presented to beloved and recently retired University of South Florida professor **Gretchen Ward Warren**, and the **Nancy Smith Award** for outstanding leadership and excellence in dance in Florida will be presented to **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar**, Florida State University professor and Artistic Director of the New York based Urban Bush Women.

Recipient of Florida Dance Association's **Lifetime Achievement in Dance** award, **Gretchen Ward Warren** is a former professor of dance in the College of The Arts at the University of South Florida in Tampa (1983 – 2010). Prior to this, she was a soloist with the Pennsylvania Ballet (1965-76) and Ballet Mistress of American Ballet Theatre II in New York (1978-83). As a dancer, Warren was trained in New York City and at London's Royal Ballet School. She is the author of two best-selling books, *Classical Ballet Technique* and *The Art of Teaching Ballet*. Well-known as a master teacher, she has taught at the school of the National Ballet of Canada, the Australian Ballet School, the Boston Ballet School, Ballet Austin Academy in Texas, the Kansas City Ballet School, the Banff Centre School of Fine Arts, the Ballet Aspen (formerly, Ballet West) Summer Dance School in Colorado, the Interlochen Arts Academy and the Walnut Hill School.

Warren is also a member of United Scenic Artists and has designed costumes for numerous dance companies including American Ballet Theatre and The Joffrey Ballet. She is listed in *Who's Who in America*, has served as a consultant-site visitor for the National Endowment of the Arts Dance Panel and the Dance Heritage Division of the Canada Arts Council. In the early 1990s, Warren functioned as the arts commentator for the National Public Radio affiliate station, WUSF-FM, in Tampa. She has also written for *Dance* magazine, *Dance View*, *Dance Teacher Now*, *Pointe* magazine and *The Saint Petersburg Times*.

In 1997, Warren taught and conducted research for six months in Australia as a Fulbright Scholar. In 2001, as a result of her experiences with Australian Aborigines and Native Americans, she wrote and directed a three-act, dance-theatre production "Dancing With The Wheel of Ever Returning." It was voted "Best Performance Event" for 2001 by *The Weekly Planet*. Warren is currently working on a book about her experiences in Australia and this production. In 2002, she was honored to receive the Fulbright Association's Selma Jeanne Cohen Award for International Research in Dance. That same year, Warren was invited to Cuba for the 18th International Ballet Festival of Havana where she taught master classes at the National Ballet School of Cuba and reviewed festival performances for the American dance journal, *Dance View*.

As a professor at the University of South Florida, Warren taught all levels of ballet technique, as well as Twentieth Century Dance History and Senior Seminar. Her hobby is growing roses. She maintains a garden with 160 rose bushes in Tampa and enjoys exhibiting her roses in horticultural shows across Florida. She is also an award-winning photographer of roses.

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A distinguished honor among Florida's dance community, the **Nancy Smith Award** was named for, and first presented in 1981 to, Dr. Nancy Smith Fichter, former Chair of the Dance Department at Florida State University and a founding member of Florida Dance Association. Individuals previously honored include some of the most revered and respected leaders in the development of Florida's statewide dance community. The last **Nancy Smith Award** was presented in 2004 to former Tallahassee Ballet Artistic Director Joyce Straub.

Recipient of the Nancy Smith Award, **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar** was born and raised in Kansas City. She trained with Joseph Stevenson, a student of the legendary Katherine Dunham, and received a B.A. in dance from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and an M.F.A. in dance from Florida State University. In 1980, she moved to New York City to study with Dianne McIntyre at Sounds in Motion. She founded Urban Bush Women in 1984. In addition to 30 works for Urban Bush Women, Zollar has created works for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ballet Arizona, Philadanco, University of Maryland, University of Florida, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and others. Her many positions as a teacher and speaker include Worlds of Thought Resident Scholar at Mankato State University (1993-94), regents lecturer in the Departments of Dance and World Arts and Culture at UCLA (1995-96), visiting artist at Ohio State University (1996), and the Abramowitz Memorial Lecturer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1998). Zollar was named Alumna of the Year by University of Missouri (1993) and Florida State University (1997) and awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Columbia College, Chicago (2002). She was awarded a 2008 USA Wynn Fellow in dance (one of only five to ever be awarded) by the philanthropic nonprofit organization, United States Artists and was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts in 2009. Zollar also received the Martin Luther King Distinguished Service Award from Florida State University, where she holds a tenured position as the Nancy Smith Fichter Professor in Dance. Zollar directs the Urban Bush Women Summer Institute, an intensive training program in dance and community engagement for artists with leadership potential interested in developing a community focus in their art-making.

Presenting the awards will be Florida Dance Association Board President Anjali Austin. For more information and to order tickets to Florida Dance Festival, visit <http://www.floridadanceassociation.org>.

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NANCY SMITH AWARD RECIPIENTS

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| 1981 | DR. NANCY SMITH FICHTER , <i>Tallahassee</i>
Former Chairperson, Department of Dance,
Florida State University and Florida Dance
Association founding member | Former Executive Director, Lee County
Alliance of the Arts |
| 1982 | THOMAS S. ARMOUR* , <i>Miami</i>
Founding Artistic Director, Miami Ballet | |
| 1983 | EDITH ROYAL ,* <i>Winter Park</i>
Founder, Ballet Royal | |
| 1984 | BARTON MUMAW ,* <i>St. Petersburg</i>
Dancer, Ted Shawn's Men Dancers | |
| 1985 | MARY ELLEN POFAHL ,* <i>Gainesville</i>
Founding Director, Gainesville Civic
Ballet/Dance Alive | |
| 1986 | ANZIA ARSENAULT* , <i>Tampa</i>
Founding Artistic Director, Tampa Ballet | |
| 1987 | THOMAS L. WALTERS , <i>Fort Myers</i> | |
| 1988 | SHERRON LONG , <i>West Palm Beach</i>
Director, Florida Cultural Action and Education
Alliances | |
| 1989 | DR. BEVERLY A. BARBER , <i>Tallahassee</i>
Former Chairperson, Department of Physical
Education, Florida A&M University | |
| 1990 | BERNADETTE CLEMENTS ,
<i>Fort Walton Beach</i>
Founder and Former Artistic Director,
Northwest Florida Ballet | |
| 1991 | BARBARA RIGGINS , <i>Orlando</i>
Co-Founder and Former Artistic Director,
Southern Ballet Theatre | |
| 1992 | MARIE HALE , <i>West Palm Beach</i>
Founder and Artistic Director,
Ballet Florida | |

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- 1993 KIP WATSON, Orlando**
Co-Founder and Former General Manager,
Southern Ballet Theatre
- 1994 CAROL LEE, Tampa**
Author and Dance Historian and Florida Dance
Association founding member
- 1995 BETTY SWENSON, Jacksonville**
Former Chair, Jacksonville University
- 1996 JONI SAUNDERS MESSLER, Gainesville**
Founder, Gainesville Ballet Theater and Joni
Messler Dance Studios
- 1997 REBECCA TERRELL, Miami**
Former Executive Director, Florida Dance
Association
- 1998 LAURIE HORN,* Miami**
Former Dance Writer, *The Miami Herald*
**deceased*
- 1999 JEANNE BOCHETTE, Fort Myers**
Founder, Studio Bochette and Gulfcoast
Dance
- 2000 JUDY SKINNER and KIM TUTTLE,**
Gainesville
Executive and Artistic Directors,
Dance Alive!
- 2001 VIRGINIA SHUKER, Fort Lauderdale**
District Supervisor, Talent Programs/Dance
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- 2002 DANIEL LEWIS, Miami**
Founding Dean, Dance Division, New World
School of the Arts
- 2003 REGINALD YATES, Tampa**
Former Instructor, Pinellas Center for the
Performing Arts, Gibbs High School
- 2004 JOYCE STRAUB, Tallahassee**
Former Artistic Director, Tallahassee Ballet

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