

Lynne Koscielniak  
Statement on Service

I am passionate about lending my expertise towards the promotion of quality and innovative theatrical production in higher education as a means of professionalizing the next generation of practitioners. I build programs that provide students leadership opportunities and foster alumni relations. I have shaped interdisciplinary collaborations which have resulted in new theatrical works and community programs. I have supervised cooperation between the Department of Theatre & Dance, the CFA, and other departments such as Music, English, Transnational Studies, and the Occupational Therapy and Communicative Disorders Programs.

In 2016, faculty from UB Communicative Disorders, Occupation Therapy, Media Study, and Theatre & Dance came together with members of the community who have chronic conditions to develop and participate in creative art experiences over the course of the summer. I worked closely with Professor Jeffrey Higginbotham to establish the role of the arts faculty and to recruit and interview potential student researchers from the arts. Funded by the President's Circle Award, Project pARTICIP-ATE was designed to develop accessible creative and performing arts programming involving artists with disabilities.

Since becoming Chair of Theatre and Dance, I have been active in the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE). As someone who has been producing theatre throughout their career, and now does so at a major research institution, my talks at ATHE have focused on strategies and lessons regarding guest artists and best practices for navigating interdisciplinary collaborations. As Chair, I administer nine academic programs, including the new MFA in Dance which was approved by SUNY under my leadership. I seek opportunities to open up the department to the university at large. Courses once reserved for majors, now live on UB Curriculum pathways. New non-major dance classes will be offered by our MFA cohort. I am proud to say that on an annual basis, the Department of Theatre & Dance's production season provides 500 experiential learning opportunities while welcoming 8000+ patrons to campus. Under my direction, our production season now has a curricular connection to the UB2020 themes, and this spring, the department is piloting on-school-time productions with plans to produce work next year that aligns with the common core. Additionally, we have hosted three WBFO Visiting Professors and several guest artists as part of UB's Creative Arts Initiative. In support of philanthropic endeavors, I actively supervise three student directed works sponsored by Abbe Raven, immediate past CEO of A&E, and Martin Tackel.

As an elected member for the National Selection Team for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, I reviewed fifty-four productions across eight regions of the United States. As part of the process, I offered feedback on the degree that the production design elements served the work as a whole, and made recommendations to the Kennedy Center as to

which productions should be brought to DC. While on the road, I offered design workshops at regional festivals, and often served as a design respondent to exhibits of student work.

As an active member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, I have served the organization at many levels. At the National Conference, I am an invited respondent to Young Designer's Forum and have participated in the Lighting Commission's portfolio reviews. As a program director, I have hosted the Upstate New York Section at the University at Buffalo on numerous occasions. I am most proud of my collaboration with the UB Confucius Institute in which Han Lixun, chief designer of the Beijing Olympics, gave the keynote address. I was also pleased to bring together certified theatre and arena riggers to discuss best practices in aerial arts. As Chair of the Upstate Section, I hosted quarterly meeting and organized professional development opportunities for our members.

Most recently I have lent my design expertise to the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. My purpose was to inform student lighting designers about the demands of site specific work through community engagement. This activity resulted in a light and sound show, designed by undergraduate researchers, in Dome 11 – the Panama Cloud Forest, and public sculptures with embedded lighting features installed on the front lawn. Our involvement in *Lumagination* was the catalyst for a sold-out UB Alumni Association event.