



Theresa Purcell Cone was a teacher, dancer, scholar, leader, and advocate who was committed to making a difference in her profession and in the lives of her students. Her contributions were exemplary and her commitment unquestioned.

As a passionate and knowledgeable teacher, Theresa connected with her students and developed a shared understanding and a strong mutual respect. After a wonderful 33-year career as an elementary Physical Education and Dance teacher, she enjoyed a second career teaching at Rowan University. Her creative and inclusive teaching fully prepared her elementary and university students. She was the first National Dance Educator of the Year (1989), recognized on the Rowan Teaching Wall of Fame, NJAHPERD Teacher of the Year (1984), NJAHPERD Higher Education Teacher of the Year (2014) and taught and choreographed for the American Repertory Ballet Company for 20 years.

Dr. Cone contributed valuable and ground-breaking scholarship in Interdisciplinary Education, Dance, Inclusive/Adapted Physical Education and Dance, and Motor Learning. She authored or co-authored books, chapters, and articles and presented at state, district, national, and international meetings. She served on the Beijing Sport University Adapted Physical Education/Physical Activity Online course project committee.

Theresa was a leader in her profession serving as NDA/AAHPERD (1994-95), Eastern District (1991-92), NJAHPERD (1987-89), and the Alliance for Arts Education (1991-93) President. She also served as JOPERD Policy Board Chair (1998-99), JOPERD Editorial Board (2006-09), Special Olympics NJ Trustee (2014-2017), and in numerous officer and committee roles. Her commitment to service was evident throughout her career.

Theresa Purcell Cone was recognized for her quality contributions to the profession with the AAHPERD (1992), EDA/AAHPERD (1991), and NJAHPERD (1992) Honor awards and the AAHPERD R. Tait McKenzie award (1995). She shared her life and career in a caring and giving manner.