

Contact : Kim Riley-Quinn
Title: QC United Program Director

QC United is the nonprofit group who created Pete the Purple Bull- the friendly mascot who now calls the Quad Cities his home. QC United and Pete are excited to announce their official partnership with Curtis Bell and Juan Valtierra; the dynamic dance duo known as RE-FL3X as well as their new partnership with Ballerina and dance instructor, Victoria Viren. These partnerships will increase the ability of QC United to provide interactive educational programming in schools while also providing a new platform for these three talented artists to expand their mentoring efforts.

Curtis Bell and Juan Valtierra have established themselves as the premier hip-hop dance duo of the Quad Cities. They are well-established dancers and choreographers who have trained and performed with professionals from across the country. Through coaching and mentorship, they have taught many young dancers how to hone their dance skills while also teaching them about self-respect and social responsibility. Their students have won numerous awards and have performed sold-out shows in the Quad Cities. Juan and Curtis will continue to teach and mentor young dancers through lessons and workshops offered through QC United.

Victoria Viren began dancing at the age of two in Orange County California and by the age of six, she was training with the Anaheim Ballet. By age 12, she was working professionally and had earned apprenticeship status. She traveled and performed as part of the Anaheim Ballet for seven years in a variety of large cities in California and else where. By age 15, Victoria had been recognized nationally in the classical and contemporary dance fields. In 2011, She was nationally recognized when she performed a duet on ABC's Dancing with the Stars. Victoria currently resides in the Quad Cities and has been teaching a wide range of dance forms for the last five years. She recently opened her own dance studio and operates out of the QC United studio space at The Center. Victoria is excited to join Pete the Purple Bull, along with Juan and Curtis as they visit schools and teach positive social skills to area students through fun, interactive lessons.

Many dance students have already performed with Pete the Purple Bull during some special events. These awesome young dancers plan to continue their involvement with Curtis, Juan and Victoria, as well as with Pete the Purple Bull. These students will act as role models in their schools and communities by demonstrating positive interactions with peers and by making good personal decisions, which includes working hard in school. QC United will reward them with an educational trip each summer and college scholarship opportunities in the future.

Juan, Curtis and Victoria are excited to expand their ability to reach more youth. They will be accompanying Pete the Purple Bull to schools and community events to teach lessons of respect, responsibility and kindness in an effort to rid the World of Bullying. Pete the Purple Bull will be the main attraction in pre-school and elementary school settings but Curtis and Juan will be primarily featured in the middle school and high school settings.

The program incorporates reading, writing, art, dance and music to engage students in fun but powerful lessons. To schedule Pete, Curtis, Juan and Victoria to appear at a school or event, contact QC United at 855-485-4445 or email Kim Riley-Quinn at kim.riley@qcunited.org.