

MAKAIHLAH GIBBS *Pittsburg, Kansas*

Unlike many dancers, Makaihlah didn't start dancing until the age of 14. Her passion for dance grew rapidly and it has been her whole life since. She has been teaching/choreographing for over 12 years now. Makaihlah has been recognized with countless awards regionally and nationally for her choreography and concepts. She travels the country year-round doing freelance choreography and intensives for other studios and high school/collegiate dance teams. Last year, she took her love for dance and kids and became the creator of, The Branch: A Dance Experience; a mental health intensive created for dancers to focus on their wellness and healthy relationships with dance and themselves. Watching dancers grow and mold into their own artist is something that truly inspires her. She loves to watch dancers be pushed to the limits they did not know existed inside of them! Makaihlah's main focus while teaching is the story and vulnerability the dancer creates on stage and the lasting impact they leave on the audience. Her motto, "Human first. Dancer second."