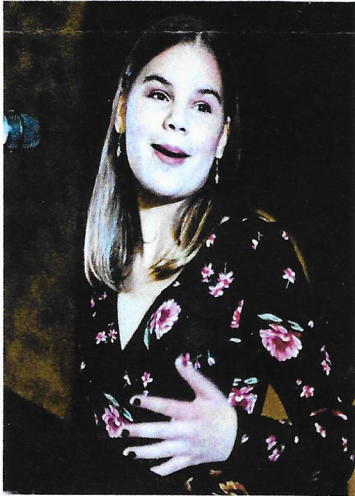


# CURRENTS

Northeast Ohio's First Social Network



**Nia Lugo, Campus International and DCNEO alumna, describes her Dancing Classroom experience**

## Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio "2019 Celebration Gala"

Nia Lugo, a seventh-grader from Campus International, took to the stage like a seasoned pro. After all, she had performed with her school's Dancing Classroom team in the same Orchid Ballroom all of two years ago. And, peering out at packed tables, she didn't hold back.

"As a past participant and the sister of a current competitor, I feel a complete and extreme universal love for this institution, and where it stands in the self-esteem and confidence building among kids in Northeast Ohio," Nia told the crowd.

The program's impact is not lost on the adults either, noted Brian J. Harte, MD, president of Cleveland Clinic Akron General, who co-chaired the event with Danielle Serino, WKYC investigative consumer reporter. "As a healthcare provider, I recognize that true wellness goes beyond the body," said Dr. Harte in the program. "The emotional health this program provides is building the future leaders of our communities."

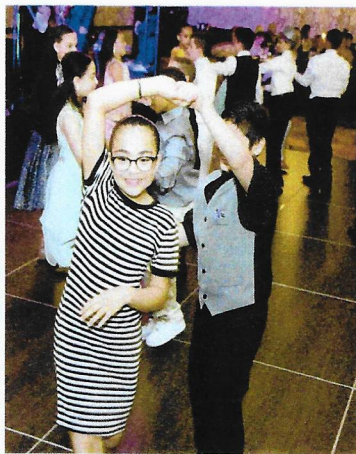
Nia, her brother Elija, and more than 19,000 other students have experienced the Dancing Classrooms social development program over the past 11 years, learning to tango and swing their way to becoming young ladies and gentlemen. In the 2018-19 school year alone, DCNEO served 2,300 students in 99 classrooms in 50 schools across four counties.

With sparkle and poise worthy of a waltz, Nia concluded her comments at the podium. "Dancing Classrooms has not only changed my family's lives," she said, "But for the hundreds of children as well who are impacted on a daily basis."

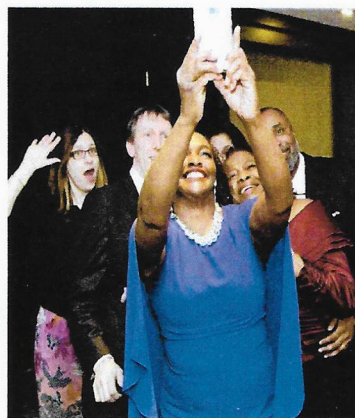
After dessert, the music picked up and diners joined dancers, young and old, on the dance floor. STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY PEGGY TURBETT



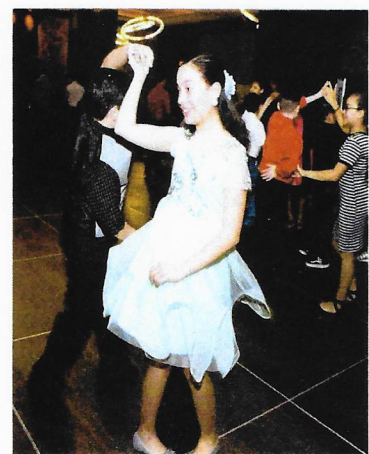
**Team dancers from Campus International School take to the tango.**



**Scranton School dancers make a merengue turn with confidence**



**Tammy Monroe, center, takes a selfie with (from left) Kryisia and Dr. Brian Harte, Dr. Rita Papas (partially hidden), Dr. Margaret McKenzie and Clairmonte Cappelle**



**With a swirl and a turn, young Scranton School dancers show their steps**

