

2021 ATHENA Finalist
April Mapes



April Mapes has been the director of the DeKalb Just For Kix Youth Dance Program since it's opening in 2008. In her 13 years with the program she has had the honor of instructing & mentoring over 550 dancers from DeKalb County! April takes pride in building special relationships with each dancer & creating a family dynamic within her studio where every child feels loved! As a key role model in these young dancers lives April models positivity, hard work, & the ability to pursue your dreams. She was honored to receive the Veteran Director of the year award from JFK in 2017 for all of her effort within her studio! April's relationship with her dancers is so much more than a dance teacher but a mentor, friend, & cheerleader! She works with her dancers to volunteer with Feed My Starving Children every year & is always pushing them to be their best self & take pride in who they are!

April has a bachelors in Business Administration from Northern Illinois University & went on to receive a Masters in Elementary Education from Aurora University. Prior to JFK April worked for Resource Bank for many years as a Teller Supervisor, Customer Service Representative, as well as becoming a Manager of Teller training where she helped to create & implement the training of all new tellers to help them succeed!