

FARMINGTON OBSERVER

Hills student earns prestigious dance scholarship; studies at NYU

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David Gourov of [Farmington Hills](#) earned a \$10,000 college scholarship from the New York City Dance Alliance Foundation. He now attends New York University.

When his mother first edged him into dancing, David Gourov hated it. But the Farmington Hills resident changed his mind as it presented him with a challenge and in the process discovered his talent. “It really provided me with something to work for,” said the Walled Lake Central graduate. “I did a lot of other sports, but I got bored with them.”

As it turned out, dance was the right choice for Gourov, who as the New York City Dance Alliance Foundation announced “he was able to shine above the rest” of the competing dancers to earn a \$10,000 college scholarship.

Gourov had already decided he would attend New York University and study dance. The scholarship was another sign that he was on the right path. “New York is an awesome state for dance,” he said.

His longtime dance instructor, Dori Matkowski at Dance Dynamics Performing Arts Center in Walled Lake, isn’t surprised with his talent or the recognition he received from the NYC Dance Alliance Foundation.

“He will make it. There’s no doubt. He would love to go for it completely,” said Matkowski, a former Farmington Hills resident.

Just in case, and with the support of his parents, who were born in Russia, Gourov is taking a double major — dance and chemistry.

“I love chemistry. It is one of those things that just feels natural to do.”

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Gourov was among 150 dancers who vied for college scholarships from the NYC Dance Alliance Foundation and from a number of other dance programs around the country.

At this year's National Season Finale, the NYC Dance Alliance Foundation and its college partners awarded a total of \$3.4 million in scholarships to dancers continuing their education.

"Every year the talent gets even better. We hope to continue to provide life-changing opportunities for these kids," said Joe Lanteri, Dance Alliance Foundation director.

In awarding Gourov the scholarship, the dance alliance said he has "a clear passion for dance." And that's something that Matkowski has no problem confirming. "I absolutely love him. He was always very respected by the teachers. He was always hungry for more. David has a sparkle in his eye."

Matkowski is impressed with Gourov's tenacity and determination. At Dance Dynamics, he was placed in the training track for professional dancers, loving above all ballet and contemporary dance. "He just made it all happen. We worked with David on the path that was suitable for him."

Graduates of Dance Dynamics, Matkowski said, become professional dancers and work in companies, one of Gourov's dreams. "I want to be a dancer in a company in Europe and then do commercials, television and teach."

Meanwhile, Gourov is getting settled into college life and living away from home. "It was a wake-up call to be on my own."

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