

# EXCELLENCE EXPO

## STUDENT INFORMATION

### DATE & TIME

July 8, 2022  
5 PM - 9 PM CST

### LOCATION

Waterloo Convention Center  
200 West 4th Street  
Waterloo, IA 50701

MARCHING AGAINST THE DARKNESS INC.



# ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW



## Mission

The Marching Against The Darkness provides a performing arts platform that challenges disconnected youth to achieve excellence both during the competition and in life.

## About

The Marching Against The Darkness Weekend originally began as a multi-generational event that hosted local and out of state drill teams that highlight art & culture through dance, color guard, and percussion. It develops future talent through performing arts for disconnected youth. In addition to the contest, the Excellence Expo creates access to transformative resources for disadvantaged youth through various workshops. This weekend welcomes over 4,000 attendees from across the Midwest to celebrate art, culture, and excellence!

# EVENT OVERVIEW



## Excellence Expo

The Excellence Expo is a fulfillment of the second half of our organizational mission to "achieve excellence in life". This event will be comprised of three components: 1) college & career fair, 2) leadership seminars, and 3) arts workshops. Sessions will be 40 minutes and there will be 4 session rotations.

All students will be required to attend the college & career fair during one of their sessions. Students will be incentivized to visit vendors because the more tables they visit the more opportunities they will have to put their name in drawings for prizes.

We are coordinating with TRIO Programs and school districts across the state to target 6th-12th grade students of disadvantaged, underrepresented, and diverse backgrounds. We are anticipating at least 1,500 students will be in attendance. Additionally, we will have roughly 300 students from across the Midwest in attendance who will be competing in our drill team competition the next day. This is a free event and all attendees will also be provided a free meal.

# SESSION DETAILS

## COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR

Students will be able to attend a College & Career Fair with up to 70 vendors comprised of two and four year universities, post secondary resources, military opportunities, employment resources, and more. Students will be incentivized to visit as many tables as possible because the more tables they visit, the more opportunities they have to put their name in various drawings for prizes.



## LEADERSHIP SEMINARS

These fun interactive sessions will help students identify and apply those important soft skills they are already using on a day to day basis. Students will engage in exciting activities that will teach them how to take those soft skills they didn't know they were using and apply them in the future in professional settings. There will be separate leadership sessions designed for middle and high school students.

## ARTS WORKSHOPS

Students will have the option to choose from four options for arts workshops: dance, step, color guard, and percussion. In learning a routine many transferable soft skills that can be used later in life are unconsciously used. Skills such as trust, persistence, patience, teamwork, sportsmanship, and confidence. In these arts workshops students will put those skills to action and learn a 3-4 minute routine that they will showcase at the conclusion of the Expo.



# 2022 EXCELLENCE EXPO SCHEDULE

5pm - 5:25pm Check In/Eat

- 5:20pm: Welcome

5:25pm - 5:30pm Break/Transition

5:30pm - 6:10pm Breakout Session 1

6:10pm - 6:15pm Break/Transition

6:15pm - 6:55pm Breakout Session 2

6:55pm - 7:00pm Break/Transition

7:00pm - 7:40pm Breakout Session 3

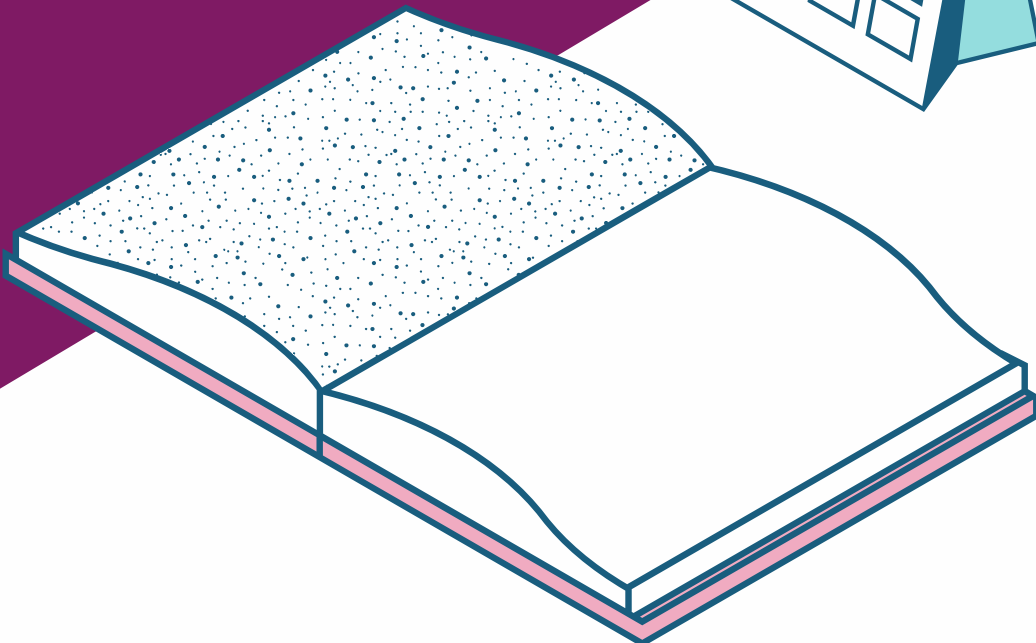
7:40pm - 7:45pm Break/Transition

7:45pm - 8:25pm Breakout Session 4

8:25pm - 8:30pm Break/Transition

8:30pm - 8:50pm Showcase

8:50pm - 9:00pm Closing Remarks



# TAKE ACTION

## REGISTER NOW

Please visit [www.matd.org](http://www.matd.org) to register your students now. Registration is free and the event is open to all 6th-12th graders. To successfully provide food for all attendees, we would like you to register your student by Friday, June 24, 2022. However registration will remain open up until the day of the event and we will be accepting walk up registration the day of the event.



## CONTACT US

Still have questions? Contact us:

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# SAVE THE DATES

## MARCHING AGAINST THE DARKNESS *Weekend*

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JULY

### EXCELLENCE EXPO

5 PM - 9 PM | GRADES 6 - 12  
WATERLOO CONVENTION CENTER

- DINNER PROVIDED
- COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR
- LEADERSHIP SEMINARS
- ARTS WORKSHOPS
- PRIZES

9

JULY

### DRILL TEAM COMPETITION

SHOW STARTS AT 6 PM  
YOUNG ARENA

WATERLOO, IA | MORE INFO COMING SOON