

EXCELLENCE EXPO

STUDENT INFORMATION

DATE & TIME

Friday, April 12, 2024
1 PM - 6 PM CST

LOCATION

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

MARCHING AGAINST THE DARKNESS INC.





MARCHING AGAINST THE
DARKNESS PRESENTS

THE EXCELLENCE EXPO

COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR • FROM 10+ STATES

SKILLS SEMINARS: LEADERSHIP • FINANCIAL EDUCATION • MENTAL WELLNESS

ARTS WORKSHOPS: DANCE • STEP • COLOR GUARD • DRUMS

04.12.24 | 1-5PM

WATERLOO CONVENTION CENTER
200 WEST 4TH STREET, WATERLOO, IA 50701

REGISTER FREE AT: WWW.MATD.ORG

OPEN TO
ALL
6TH-12TH
GRADE
STUDENTS

FREE
LUNCH
PROVIDED

PRIZES &
GIVEAWAYS

5 PM - 6PM: PARENT COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR NETWORKING
UPON PICK UP

 matd.org  [matd_org](https://www.instagram.com/matd_org)  [matd_org](https://twitter.com/matd_org)

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
DIRECTOR@MATD.ORG OR (319) 504-2309



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 Inc. originally began as a multi-generational competition 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 competition, the Excellence Expo creates access to transformative resources for disadvantaged youth through various workshops. These programs collectively welcome over 2,000 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 is comprised of three components: 1) college & career fair, 2) skills seminars, and 3) arts workshops. Sessions are 40 minutes and there are 3 session rotations.

While the other components have several options, 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 Waterloo Schools, and local youth organizations to target 6th-12th grade students of disadvantaged, underrepresented, and diverse backgrounds. We are anticipating up to 500 students to be in attendance. This is a free event and all attendees will also be provided a free lunch.

This year we are adding a new component: The Parent Fair. Upon picking up their child, parents will also have the opportunity to connect with college and career fair vendors. This will further engage them in their child's future options, as they are extremely instrumental in their child's guidance and decision making.

EXCELLENCE EXPO COMPONENT DETAILS

COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR

Students will be able to attend a College & Career Fair with vendors comprised of two and four year universities, post secondary resources, military opportunities, employment resources, and more from 10 states. 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.



SKILLS SEMINARS

These fun interactive sessions will help students identify and apply those important skills for future adult success. Students will have the option to choose from three session options: financial education, leadership, or mental wellness. Students will engage in exciting activities that will teach them how to take these skills and apply them in the future in professional and personal settings.



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 short routine that they will showcase at the conclusion of the Expo.



2024 EXCELLENCE EXPO SCHEDULE

12pm-1pm Vendor Check In

1pm - 1:45pm Student Check In/Lunch

- 1:30pm: Welcome

1:45pm - 1:50pm Break/Transition

1:50pm - 2:30pm Breakout Session 1

2:30pm - 2:35pm Break/Transition

2:35pm - 3:15pm Breakout Session 2

3:15pm - 3:20pm Break/Transition

3:20pm - 4:00pm Breakout Session 3

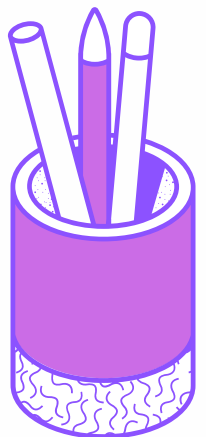
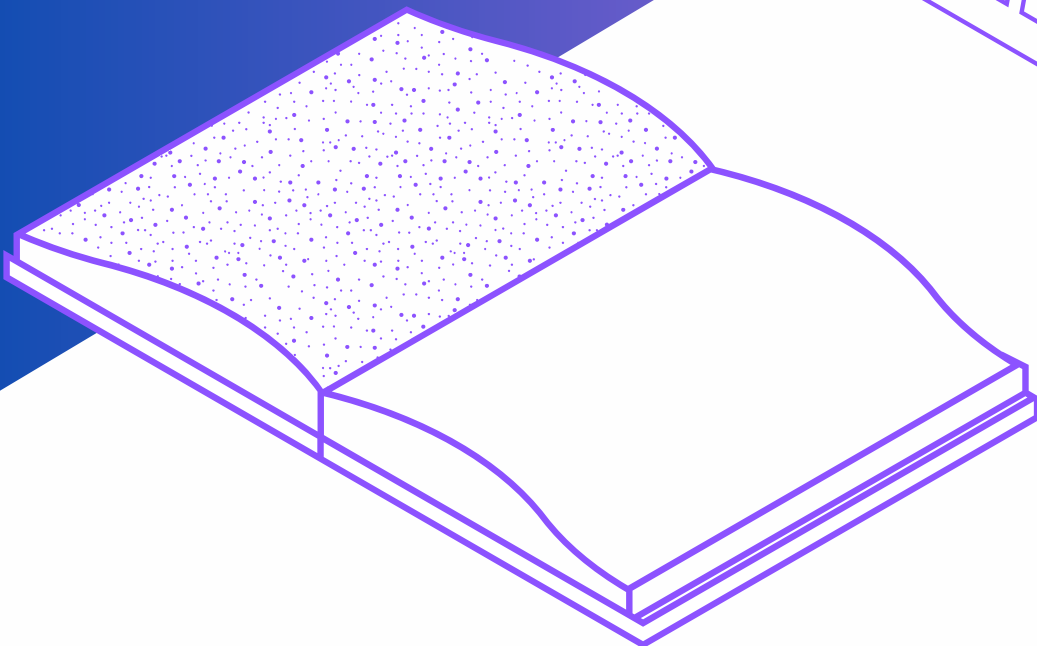
4:00pm - 4:10pm Break/Transition

4:10pm - 4:40pm Arts Workshops Showcase

4:40pm - 4:50pm Prizes

4:50pm - 5:00pm Closing Remarks

5:00pm - 6:00pm Parent Fair



TAKE ACTION

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Please visit www.matd.org to register your students now. Registration is free, but **REQUIRED**. The event is open to all 6th-12th grade students.

STUDENTS MUST REGISTER
BY
Wednesday, April 3, 2024.



CONTACT US

Still have questions? Contact us:

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