CNADM
Chicago National Association of Dance Masters

2026 College & Career Fair

Friday, November 6

Schedule of Events

Seniors

Mahogany Ballroom

7:00 School Tables Open
Check-In Begins (Mahogany Ballroom)

8:00 **Welcome/Announcements**

8:15-9:30 **Ballet**
Dale Merrill
(The Hartt School, University of Hartford)

9:40-10:40 **Modern**
Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney
(Wayne State University)

10:45-11:45 **Improvisation**
Nicole Bradley Browning
(Arizona State University)

12:15-1:00 Panel Discussion in Mahogany Ballroom - *Lunch Provided for Dancers*

1:30-2:30 **Commercial Jazz**
Beverly Bautista Spaulding
(Point Park University)

2:40-3:40 **Musical Theatre Tap**
Tiffany Warford
(Oklahoma City University)

3:45-4:45 **Contemporary**
Zak Schlegel
(CLI Conservatory)

4:45 **Closing Announcements & Visit Schools**

Juniors

Sapphire Pavilion

7:00 School Tables Open
Check-In Begins (Sapphire Pavilion)

8:15 **Welcome/Announcements**

8:30-9:30 **Contemporary**
Cameron Childs
(Bennington College)

9:40-10:40 **Hip Hop**
Joseph Ancheta
(AMDA)

10:45-11:45 **Jazz**
Mike Esperanza
(Western Michigan University)

1:30-2:45 **Ballet**
Rich Grund
(Northern Illinois University)

3:00-4:00 **Modern**
Meghen McKinley
(Western Kentucky University)

4:10-5:10 **Musical Theatre Tap**
Tammy Mader
(Chicago College of Performing Arts)

5:10 **Closing Announcements & Visit Schools**

Parent Seminars

Sienna (Lower Level)

9:00-10:00

"How College Dance Can Launch Career Success"
Darby Wilde (Illinois State University)

Choosing the right college dance program can play an important role in shaping student's future career. This seminar will explore what to look for when evaluating a college dance program and how the college experience can help students develop the skills, connections, experiences, and confidence needed to pave their career paths - both within dance and beyond.

10:30-11:30

"What Comes Next"
Victor Alexander (Ruth Page School of Dance)

After years of dance training, how do families know what should come next? This seminar will help parents better understand the different possibilities after high school, what professional readiness can actually mean, and how continued training, mentorship, and artistic development may fit into that journey. Drawing from real experience with dancers at different stages of their development, the conversation will give families practical questions to ask as they evaluate opportunities and help their dancer choose the path that best supports their individual goals and needs.

12:15-1:00

Panel Discussion (Senior Room)

2:00-3:00

"The Dance Path To College: A Parent's Guide"
Michael Foley (University of South Florida)

An in-depth discussion about what college dance curriculums look like, finding the right school, how to prepare for the auditions, and career paths associated with the dance degree. Participants will be provided with a document from Professor Foley detailing all of the points covered in the seminar. This seminar is also meant to give you some solid answers, so please bring your questions!

3:15-4:15

"Understanding Collegial Dance Preparation"
Madia Cooper-Ashirifi (Brenau University)

This session is designed to equip prospective dance major families with essential knowledge and tools to navigate the college decision process. Through candid discussion and practical advice, we will demystify common misconceptions about pursuing dance in higher education, explore the wide spectrum of degree options, and outline how to identify the right fit artistically, academically, and financially.