

NEWS RELEASE



University Relations

Dickinson, North Dakota 58601

Dickinson State University to Host Esports Conference

DICKINSON, N.D. (March 8, 2024)—Dickinson State University is calling out to all high school gamers with aspirations to level up their esports journey.

The "Level Me Up" conference, designed to empower students for collegiate opportunities in the dynamic world of esports, is the ultimate event for high school students, parents, coaches, and transfer students seeking insights into competitive gaming. The mission is clear: to equip attendees with the knowledge and tools needed to thrive in the competitive gaming landscape. This engaging virtual conference will be held Wednesday, April 3, 2024 and is completely free.

Josh Nichols, Esports Coordinator at Dickinson State University, underscored the event's significance, stating, " This conference provides a unique opportunity for high school gamers to try out collegiate esports. It's a chance to see the exciting world of collegiate competitive gaming firsthand. To make sure we are accessible to everyone interested, we decided to make this event virtual and free."

The conference is not limited to gamers alone. Nichols added, "Parents of gamers are also invited to attend to learn about the multitude of competitive, academic, and scholarship opportunities that are available. Additionally, high school coaches and counselors are welcome to attend to discover ways they can better equip their students for success."

The conference includes a series of enlightening sessions tailored to help participants navigate the collegiate esports landscape effectively. Participants will explore the evolution of collegiate competitive gaming and its societal impact while learning to balance gaming passion with academic pursuits. They will also discover the importance of crafting an appealing online gamer profile for esports recruitment and gain valuable tips on selecting the right university to match your esports aspirations, academic goals, and financial considerations.

The slate of speakers comprises of esteemed leaders and innovators within the esports industry and the collegiate esports scene. Presenters include:

- Mike Anderson | President, Co-founder and Head of Physical Maintenance - FITGMR
- Michael Brooks | Executive Director - National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE)
- Debora Dragseth, Ph.D. | Professor of Business & Leadership - Dickinson State University
- Cora Kennedy | Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - National Esports Collegiate Conference (NECC)
- Josh Nichols | Esports Coordinator - Dickinson State University
- Marty Wetherall | Co-founder & CEO – LeagueOS

Early registration is encouraged. While individuals can register independently, groups and classes may plan to join sessions collectively for a shared experience. For more details about the sessions and to register, please visit www.levelmeupnow.com. A finalized schedule will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

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For media inquiries, sponsorship opportunities, or additional information, please contact:
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