

14TH ANNUAL Student Leadership Exchange

at Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026

9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. | IN-PERSON EXPERIENCE

ABOUT THE EVENT

LEAD culminates in the presentation of student projects, developed in elective modules, at the annual Student Leadership Exchange (SLX). SLX provides students an opportunity to present their projects and research to entrepreneurs, visiting professors, experts in their fields, IMSA faculty, state legislators, and most importantly each other. SLX functions much like an academic conference focusing on youth leadership, bringing awareness to social issues from around the world.

Connected to SLX is the long-standing tradition of the Hollister Lecture, an annual lecture series sponsored by the family of on of IMSA's formal faculty Dr. Bernard Hollister. The Hollister Lecture series aims to inform students about various social issues and topics in student leadership.

Expectation of Dress: All students and staff directly participating in SLX are expected to wear business professional or business casual attire, commonly referred to as "Convocation" style within the IMSA community. To support the professionalism of the event, the LEAD team also encourages those not directly participating to dress in business professional or business casual attire while in IMSA's main building.

AGENDA

- 9:00 A.M. Welcome and Opening Remarks
26-27 LEAD Coordinators Sahasra Janagama and Kavyaa Naveen
- 9:30 A.M. Hollister Lecture
IMSA Alumni Aaditya Tolappa '12
- 11:00 A.M. Class of 2028 Lunch and Activities
Student Professional Headshots Available
- 1:00 P.M. Presentation Opening Remarks
25-26 LEAD Coordinators Avi Samy and Caden Tam
- 1:50 P.M. Round 1 Presentations
- 2:10 P.M. Round 2 Presentations
- 2:30 P.M. Round 3 Presentations
- 2:50 P.M. Presentation Break
- 3:10 P.M. Round 4 Presentations
- 3:30 P.M. Round 5 Presentations
- 3:50 P.M. Round 6 Presentations
- 4:10 P.M. SLX Classroom Photo

[Click Here for Student Leadership Exchange Project Abstracts](#)

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Aaditya Tolappa '12

Aaditya Tolappa, is a civil rights attorney. He represents people who were wrongfully convicted of crimes, victims of police violence, whistleblowers exposing corporate fraud, and others seeking justice in court. Aadi has helped clients secure victories in state, federal, and immigration court. Before he became an attorney, Aadi worked as a teacher and school principal at a middle school on Chicago's South Side.

Aadi is a 2012 graduate of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. He lived in 1507 and was, among other things, a Leadership Education and Development facilitator. He earned a B.S. in Cognitive Science from Yale University in 2016, an M.A. in Teaching from Relay Graduate School of Education in 2018, and a J.D. from New York University School of Law in 2022.

Aadi lives in Chicago with his wife, Irene. They met as sophomores at IMSA and have been together since.



For more information, please contact Emma Wilson Parker at ewilson1@imsa.edu