NFC 5 Star Program (new conference bylaws)

The following section was approved at the Fall 2026 coaches' meeting to be added to the NFC Bylaws under section ***VI NFC Awards – special honors***.

g. Star Program Recognition (optional – programs may submit applications on an annual basis) – NFC member programs, of their own volition, may earn recognition each year for their work in contributing both to our *organization* and to their *community*. Beginning May 1st each year, programs completing three of the following activities, with at least one activity in each category, will be eligible to earn recognition. Programs may earn up to five Stars by completing a corresponding number of activities.

- *Organization*
    - Attending at least two designated NFC tournaments
    - Inducting team members, including a discussion of the NFC code of ethics
    - Submitting a nomination for the Megan Gaffney or Judge Educator award
    - Participation in NFC feedback and assessment processes
- *Community*
    - Facilitating or partnering to complete a community service project
    - Leading or participating in a campus event (recruitment/involvement fair, etc.)
    - Hosting a public forensics event (tournament, showcase, debate camp, etc.)
    - Presenting at an academic conference or professional organization meeting

The portfolio should include both a narrative indicating which of the criteria have been met as well as a collection of supporting materials provided as grounds which warrant fulfillment of said criteria.

NFC member programs seeking to apply for Star Program Recognition must compile and submit their portfolio to the NFC President by April 30th. Should there be extenuating circumstances, the President may accept late submissions at their discretion.

Review of portfolio submissions will be done by a committee which shall be coordinated by the NFC President and completed by June 1st. The committee will be composed of the NFC At-large representative, the NFC Community College representative, and one additional NFC member as appointed by the NFC President. This committee will review portfolio submissions and recommend recognition for NFC member schools with 5-, 4-, or 3-Star status based on their attainment of the criteria.

The NFC President will notify each applicant program of their result as soon as possible after the review. In addition, at the first NFC designated tournament of the following season, member programs deemed to have fulfilled the requirements in the previous year shall be presented with an official letter signed by the committee members as well as a physical award in recognition of their level of accomplishment, e.g. being a 5-, 4-, or 3-Star Program.