



NATIONAL FOOTBALL
FOUNDATION

COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

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Inaugural NFF National High School Academic Excellence Awards to Include 30 State HS Coaches Associations

First nationwide recognition honoring individual high school football teams for excellence in the classroom; Nominations forms to go out this week.

IRVING, Texas (Nov. 3, 2021) – In February, the National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame announced a partnership with state high school coaches associations from nine states, with Nebraska and Texas leading the initial effort, to create the NFF National High School Academic Excellence Awards. The awards represent the first nationwide recognition honoring individual high school football teams for excellence in the classroom. Since the initial announcement, 21 other state high school coaches associations have joined the partnership resulting in 30 states that will take part in the inaugural awards.

“Academic and athletic success go hand-in-hand,” said NFF Chairman **Archie Manning**. “We are proud to partner with these 30 high school coaches associations on this award, and our goal is to eventually reach all 50 states in the future. We hope by inspiring teams to compete in the classroom with the same competitive spirit that it takes to win on the field we will better prepare high school football players for success later in life.”

“Texas is excited to partner with the National Football Foundation in an effort to recognize team academic excellence,” said **Joe Martin**, the Executive Director of the Texas High School Coaches Association. “This unique, national award recognizes High School Football teams that have excelled in academics during this football season. Not only does the game of football teach life lessons, but the teams receiving this award are proving they can compete in the classroom as well as on the gridiron.”

The 30 participating state high school coaches associations include Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

The awards will recognize the top academic team winner from each level of play in each state as well as one overall national winner. The individual state high school coaches associations will

send out nomination forms to all of their head football coaches this week, and all submissions are due by Jan. 14, 2022. The state and national winners will be announced in January and February, respectively.

For more information on the NFF National High School Academic Excellence Awards or to learn how your state high school coaches association can participate, please contact the NFF at news@footballfoundation.com.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION & COLLEGE HALL OF FAME

Founded in 1947 with early leadership from General Douglas MacArthur, legendary Army coach Earl "Red" Blaik and immortal journalist Grantland Rice, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame is a non-profit educational organization that runs programs designed to use the power of amateur football in developing scholarship, citizenship and athletic achievement in young people. With 120 chapters and 12,000 members nationwide, NFF programs include the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta, Future for Football, The William V. Campbell Trophy®, the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class Presented by Fidelity Investments and a series of initiatives to honor the legends of the past and inspire the leaders of the future. NFF corporate partners include Catapult, Delta Air Lines, Fidelity Investments, Goodyear, Jostens, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the New York Athletic Club and the Sports Business Journal. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) @NFFNetwork and learn more at footballfoundation.org.

The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame

Preserving the Past, Promoting the Present, Preparing the Future, and Protecting the Game Through Programs and Initiatives that Support

- 767 Colleges & Universities • Over 81,000 College Football Players***
- 15,810 High Schools • Over 1.04 Million High School Football Players***