



## **U.S. Army – Pro Football Hall of Fame Award for Excellence Program Overview**

### **Background:**

Launched in January 2012, the U.S. Army – Pro Football Hall of Fame – Award for Excellence Program seeks to highlight the Nation’s top sophomore, junior, and senior high school athletes who share key attributes of U.S. Army Soldiers; and who not only excel athletically, but who also excel academically and are active in their communities. Since 2012, this prestigious award has only been given to 60 student athletes from around the country.

### **Previous Winners:**

2012: Nate Lewis – Springfield, IL (Sacred-Heart Griffin High School)

2013: Andrew Way – Hebron, KY (Conner High School)

2015: Courtney Cecere – Sidman, PA (Forest Hills High School)

2016: Ariana Luterman – Addison, TX (Greenhill High School)

### **Award Nominations Criteria:**

Students nominated for the U.S. Army – Pro Football Hall of Fame Award for Excellence must meet the following criteria in order to be considered for selection. Nominations and judging criteria include:

- Students must be in their sophomore, junior, or senior year of an accredited high school during the 2016-2017 school year. High schools must either be in the United States or part of the Department of Defense system of schools in order for students to qualify.
- Students must be a current, active member on a school athletic team and have completed one season of play at minimum.
- Students must hold a minimum 3.5 GPA on an unweighted scale.
- Students must be involved with and/or support the local community:
  - Community service can include volunteering and/or mentoring for any non-school or non-work related organization.
- Students must have three letters of recommendation:

1. One letter from a school representative, such as administrative staff, teachers or counselors.
  2. One letter from athletic team coach and/or assistant coach.
  3. One letter from community service organization representative.
- The Pro Football Hall of Fame and U.S. Army stand for Excellence; in 500 words or less, students must define what Excellence means to them and what character traits have helped them achieve it.

The judging panel comprised of Pro Football Hall of Fame executives and Professional Football Hall of Fame athletes will review all submissions and nominate 25 student Finalists as well as one winner who will receive a scholarship amount of \$2,500.

### **Award Nominations Process:**

All nomination information will need to be submitted via email to [USArmy@ProFootballHOF.com](mailto:USArmy@ProFootballHOF.com) by **midnight EDT January 15, 2017**. You will receive an email confirmation when your email is delivered successfully.

The judging panel will review all submissions and the 25 Award finalists will be notified on **February 1, 2017**. Upon the finalist announcements, Award for Excellence Program representatives will work to set up a formal finalist presentation with a Hall of Fame “Gold Jacket” at each nominated student’s school during the spring of 2017.

Each of the 25 nominated finalists will be provided with travel arrangements (provided by the PFHOF) to the 2017 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Weekend in Canton, Ohio, to participate in weekend activities **August 4-6, 2017**. The winner of the U.S. Army-Pro Football Hall of Fame Award for Excellence will be announced during a special recognition at the Pro Football Hall of Fame on **Saturday, August 5, 2017**.

### **Additional Award Information:**

- Pro Football Hall of Fame Award for Excellence Program information:
  - [www.goarmy.com/AAB](http://www.goarmy.com/AAB)
  - <http://www.profootballhof.com/award-for-excellence/>

### **Award Contact Information:**

Pro Football Hall of Fame Contact: Mattison Rankin – [Mattison.rankin@profootballhof.com](mailto:Mattison.rankin@profootballhof.com)