

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE  
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



## NEWS RELEASE

### **12 Leaders in High School Activity Programs to Receive NFHS Citations**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Bruce Howard

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (January 21, 2020) — Twelve leaders in high school activity programs across the country have been selected to receive National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Citations.

An award designed to honor individuals who have made contributions to the NFHS, state high school associations, athletic director and coaching professions, the officiating avocation and fine arts/performing arts programs, the NFHS Citation is one of the most highly regarded achievements in high school athletics and performing arts.

The 2020 NFHS Citation recipients will receive their awards June 30 at the annual NFHS Summer Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

Eight of the 12 award winners represent NFHS-member state high school associations, and four represent NFHS professional organizations for officials, coaches, music leaders and speech/debate/theatre directors.

The eight state association recipients are **Tom Mezzanotte**, Section 1, executive director, Rhode Island Interscholastic League, Warwick, Rhode Island; **Mark Byers**, Section 2, chief operating officer, Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania; **Nessie Harris**, Section 3, retired associate commissioner, South Carolina High School League, Columbia, South Carolina; **Kurt Gibson**, Section 4, associate commissioner, Illinois High School Association, Bloomington, Illinois; **Kathy Long**, Section 5, administrative assistant, Missouri State High School Activities Association, Columbia, Missouri; **Paul Angelico**, Section 6, retired commissioner, Colorado High School Activities Association, Aurora, Colorado; **Thomas Yoshida**, Section 7, Hawaii High School Athletic Association, Honolulu, Hawaii; and **Russell Schreckenghost**, Section 8, associate director, Alaska School Activities Association, Anchorage, Alaska.

The four Citation recipients representing the NFHS professional organizations are **Joe Tonelli**, NFHS Officials Association, executive staff member, Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, Cheshire, Connecticut; **Rob Younger**, NFHS Coaches Association, executive director, Oregon Athletic Coaches Association, Sweet Home, Oregon; **Cathleen Britton**, NFHS Music Association, retired director of music, O’Gorman High School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and **Cheryl Frazier**, NFHS Speech/Debate/Theatre/Academics Association, director of forensics and theatre, Southland College Prep High School, Richton Park, Illinois.

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#### **About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the

District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.9 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

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