



**NEBRASKA STATE BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION
“Donald A. Lentz Outstanding Bandmaster Award”**

Donald A. Lentz began teaching at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln in 1937 and retired in 1974 after 37 years at the University. Over the years Donald Lentz became a respected advisor to high school band programs across the nation. His vigorous encouragement has motivated countless directors and students to achieve greater heights and excellence in their respective band programs.

Eugene Stoll, Supervisor of Instrumental Music for LPS, brought a suggestion to Mike Veak, the NSBA Public Relations Chair in 1974, for the formation of the Donald A Lentz Outstanding Bandmaster Award. A committee of Mike, Eugene, and Duane W. Johnson, NSBA President and Lincoln East Band Director, drew up the guidelines for the award.

The committee’s goal and statement at the time the award was first given, still holds true today. “As a profession we must constantly seek out and welcome opportunities to recognize excellence among band directors throughout the state and make the public aware of the vital role the band director plays in molding today’s youth for a better tomorrow.” The Nebraska Marching Band Festival, held at Pershing, originally funded the award.

The first Don Lentz Outstanding Bandmaster Award was presented to Don Lentz and Bud Johnson at the 1975 NSBA Convention. Don took part in most of the Lentz Award presentations until his death at age 79 in 1987.

(Three letters of recommendation to accompany the nomination form.)

NAME _____ SCHOOL _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
RECOMMENDED BY _____ SCHOOL _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

Answer the following questions on a word document.

1. Does the candidate demonstrate an interest in the total band program? Explain.
2. How has the candidate evidenced a commitment to a career as a band director?
3. In what ways has the candidate demonstrated by example and deed, the basic principles of an outstanding band director?
4. Has the candidate shown creativity, originality, and imagination as a band director? Explain.
5. List the professional organizations in which the candidate takes part. Include offices held, if any, and individual and group awards.

Please e-mail your nomination form to the NSBA Awards Chair at nsba.awards@gmail.com no later than December 20th.

If you don’t have the capabilities to scan in the additional recommendation letters, you can mail them to me at Carrie Jensen, NSBA Awards Chair, 1204 N. 27th St., Norfolk, NE 68701.