

## ***The Jackie Foote Award of Excellence in Congressional Debate***

This award has been established by the Tarheel Forensic League to honor the congressional competitor who best exemplifies what Congressional Debate stands for. The winner should be a “good person speaking well.” Anyone who competes in Congressional Debate at the TFL State Championship Tournament is eligible to win that year, whether the person made it to Super Congress or not. The following are the qualities that must be exhibited in the recipient:

Above all else, the winner should demonstrate the highest ideals of character. He or she should not necessarily be the most popular competitor or the most successful, but must be held in the highest esteem of his or her fellow congresspersons. The award winner should be known for honesty in speech writing, procedural fairness, and ethical behavior both in debate and in his or her daily life. This honoree should be a suitable example for all students and coaches in North Carolina as a model citizen.

Congress is unique among all the events in that competitors can actively work to help or hurt their teammates through their actions in chamber. The winner should demonstrate leadership among his or her team. This individual should understand the dynamics of in-chamber strategy and be able to effectively keep team members voting as a single unit on procedural issues to maximize their effectiveness. An ability to negotiate conflicting interests among team members or various participants in a chamber is desirable in the honoree.

The winner should demonstrate a genuine desire to teach novices and a concern for the forensics community at-large. The student who embodies the qualities honored by this award freely shares their experiences and encouragement with any fellow competitor and behaves in a manner that welcomes new teams and students to competition.

As was the award’s namesake during her career, the student honored with this award should be exceptionally devoted to Congressional Debate. That is not to say that the award winner should be the student who has attended the most tournaments during his or her career, but rather that the award winner should be an individual who has made Congress his or her primary event and who has a substantial record demonstrating all of the above qualities.

This award is not a popularity contest. The winner should be carefully evaluated by each person casting a vote for each of the qualities named above. The Award of Excellence in Congressional Debate represents TFL’s highest honor for a student legislator and only those with the utmost integrity and ethics should be considered.

## **Selection Process:**

1. ***The Jackie Foote Award of Excellence in Congressional Debate*** shall be chosen by students who compete in the TFL Super congress, but nominees may be anyone who was entered in the preliminary or the super session of Congress. No student who competed in the preliminary session the TFL State Championship shall be excluded from consideration. All Congressional Debate entrants at each year's tournament who are seniors are eligible for nomination even if they did not "break" to finals. However, a student may NOT nominate himself or herself.
2. At the beginning of Super Congress, the TFL Chair and/or TFL Clerk of Congress will address the chamber briefly to explain the award, the seriousness of the award and the qualifications an honoree must possess. A handout with the criteria for selection shall be given to each competitor. **It needs to be strongly emphasized that this is NOT a popularity contest.** Students should think about who they wish to nominate during the Super Session and be prepared to give a nomination speech at the end of the session.
3. At the end of the session after the judges have cleared the room, students may nominate other students by giving a three minute nomination speech explaining to the chamber why their nominee deserves the honor. The TFL Chair and/or Clerk of Congress (or designated representative of the TFL) shall preside over the nominating session. The Parliamentarian and scorers from the Super Session should NOT be present. Speeches must be three minutes long. There is NO cross examination of these speeches and no scores will be awarded. These nomination speeches shall in no way count as part of the Super Congress competition.
4. Only one Super Congress contestant per school can make a nomination, although multiple people from the same school can be nominated.
5. Voting will be by secret ballot and will be conducted by the Clerk of Congress or his/her designee so that the winner stays secret. Students in Super Congress will fill out ONE preferential ballot listing ALL nominees in their preferred order. If the top choice on a person's ballot gets eliminated on the first count, the #2 vote will be counted instead in the second round of ballot counting. This shall continue going down the preferential list until one nominee receives a majority of 50 percent plus one. Only one ballot is to be filled out per person. Students who do not list ALL candidates on their ballot in preferential order shall have their ballot voided. The voided ballot will not count in the final total.
6. Under no circumstances will the winner or any candidate being eliminated during the voting process be announced or disclosed until the awards ceremony. The TFL Chair and/or Clerk of Congress will guarantee the secrecy of the honor until the awards ceremony.