Hello!

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying a great school year. My name is Angela Winter and I am Director of Bands and Brass at Adams State University. I am writing to invite you and your students to the 2017 Adams State University *Top of the Nation Honor Band*. If you have been involved in the past, thank you and I hope you will consider joining us again! If you are new to TOTNHB, welcome and we look forward to having you and serving you and your students with a quality musical experience! The dates for *Top of the Nation Honor Band* are Thursday through Saturday, March 9-11, 2017.

There are some changes to TOTNHB this year that will prove to make this a rewarding weekend for students and directors as well. In the hopes to better serve you and your students, this year we are offering the honor band on a separate weekend from honor choir. This enables students in both band and choir the opportunity for participate in both events. It also allows us to offer TWO honor bands. We will have guest clinicians for each instrument who, in addition to running sectionals for the students, will be offering master classes for students as well as directors. In addition, there will be opportunities for your students to audition for ASU Music Scholarships while they are on campus.

As in past years, we will offer a Director’s Seminar, which including group discussions, rehearsal observation, presentations and clinic sessions on conducting, rehearsal technique, and vital information on recruiting. Graduate credit (.5 credit/7.5 contact hrs) is available for participating high school band directors who wish to register for these seminars. If not seeking graduate credit, directors are welcome to participate free of charge. Representatives from Flesher-Hinton Music will be with us as well, and will be a resource for instrument maintenance and repair.

I am excited to say that this year’s guest conductor will be Dr. Nicholas Williams from The University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. He is an outstanding musician and teacher and I know your students will enjoy working with him. His bio is on our website and can be found at: [https://music.unt.edu/faculty-and-staff/nicholas-williams](https://music.unt.edu/faculty-and-staff/nicholas-williams)

All information and forms that you and your students will require for TOTN 2017 are currently available online as downloadable documents. The selection and part assignments will be determined on the basis of the student’s recorded audition, resume, and on your recommendation. There will be no chair placements on campus upon arrival for the Wind Symphony. Chair placements for the Symphonic Band (directors’ choice) will take place upon arrival. Please refer your students to the All-State Audition Materials list for each instrument in preparing their audition CD’s

All applications need to be submitted by December 4, 2016. A $30 registration fee will be assessed per student. In most instances, this is an expenditure that music support organizations or schools will sponsor. Please note, there will be opportunities for your students to audition for ASU Music Scholarships while they are on campus.

I look forward to seeing returning directors and meeting new directors your students. I
can be reached at angelakwinter@adams.edu if you have any questions. The main Music Department telephone number is (719) 587-7621. I wish you and your band students all the best for a successful Fall music season, and I look forward to seeing you and your students in March!

Sincerely,

Angela Winter

**Top Of The Nation Honor Band Quick Facts:**

**Location:** Adams State University

**Date:** March 9-11, 2017

**Guest Conductor:** Dr. Nicholas Williams, The University of North Texas

**Guest Instrumental Clinicians:** TBA

**Audition material:** Colorado All-State material

**Application materials and further information:**
[https://www.adams.edu/academics/music/topofthenation.php](https://www.adams.edu/academics/music/topofthenation.php)

**Audition deadline:** December 4, 2016 (postmark)