



# Welcome Letter 2026

Thank you for considering attending the 6th annual Gold Star Achievement Ball it's sure to be a value-packed event for your students. The GSAB was born out of a desire to help bring the dance communities together after the shutdowns from the pandemic. Our primary goal over the next few years is focused on quality and organization, therefore attending this event will be by invitation only, if I have sent you this invitation you are welcomed to attend. I am committed to growing slowly as to maintain a healthy event that feels stress-free and fun for all.

This years event is scheduled for Saturday October 17, 2026 at 9am. Entry forms and associated fees are due no later than September 17, 2026. Because of how personalized this event is for your students no entries will be accepted after the Deadline. We are offering student evaluations through the Bronze and Silver levels, Gold will be added in the future. The syllabus used for all student evaluations is Dance Vision, although this is an unsanctioned event and student evaluations will not be recognized by Dance Vision. Our intention is a community-driven event, we ask that all attending teachers be apart of the evaluation team.

The GSAB has three components: Student evaluation entries also known commonly as Medal Exams are the main focus of this event, students will go through evaluation rounds, formatted in the spirit of a competition. Second, Am/Am solo presentations, formation teams and Pro-Am choreographed showcase exhibition routines will be available. These entries will be evaluated and the results will be given to the student/s during the award presentation. The third component is the awards ceremony, students will receive the evaluators' sheets, showing them areas they excelled in and areas of needed improvement. The evaluators' sheets include the students score listed as lack of proficiency, proficient, or honors. Students will also receive a journey chart that they will take home, each style of dance has its own journey chart. Dances performed and evaluated as proficient or above earns a dance specific sticker which can be placed on their journey chart. Journey charts are a visual way to track their progress towards Full Bronze Certification.

As I look to the future for the GSAB, I hope to see schools from both Colorado Springs and Denver participating together, something for students to look forward to and gain confidence to explore future avenues like studio showcase events and or competitions.

Thank you for considering being apart of this new format. We hope to see you and your students at the next Gold Star Achievement Ball!

*Brad & Sarah Ackerman*  
Organizers