

**SAFECON 2021**  
**Loening Trophy Judging Criteria**  
**Judging Period Fall 2019 to Spring 2021**

The Loening Trophy - the rarest and oldest of all collegiate aviation awards - is a perpetual trophy presented annually to the outstanding all-around collegiate aviation program in the nation. The pure silver, Tiffany designed trophy, was commissioned and first awarded in 1929 when aviation pioneer and inventor Dr. Grover Loening saw a continuing need to annually recognize the most outstanding achievements of collegiate aviation programs. Dr. Loening (first aeronautical engineer for the Wright Brothers), asked his friends and famous pilots Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart and Navy Commander John Towers to assist him in judging the first competition. The original Loening Trophy is still awarded today and is considered the most prestigious award at the annual SAFECON competition. The award not only represents superb achievement in aeronautical skills but more importantly represents the current benchmark for an overall outstanding collegiate aviation program. Emphasis on academics: community involvement, aviation skills and their advancement: a comprehensive safety program, and professionalism, when combined with a pro-active enhancement of the future of aviation are keys for the selection of this award.

Prior to the COVID Pandemic, the Trophy's only interruption of presentation was during the war years of WW II. To varying degrees among all programs the pandemic has resulted in the loss of competitive collegiate events, social interaction, community outreach programs, conventions, and in many cases, the normal in-school, in-person learning. Therefore, in consultation with the Loening Judging Board, NIFA Leadership, Alpha Eta Rho, WIA and many others, this year's judging criteria has been adjusted to reflect the challenges facing collegiate aviation in the pandemic and the resultant aviation industry personnel shortages. Each school made their own "best practices" choices and changes to meet the continued demands of preparing personnel to meet the future demands in the US Government declared Essential Worker Programs. Aviation was determined to be a key critical node to the movement of essential goods and services to overcome the challenges of the pandemic in Worldwide Scope. The aviation industry not only met this demand but is coming out of the pandemic with a robust and aggressive hiring model to return to fully manned and trained personnel in all areas of aviation.

The Loening Trophy judging for the pandemic has resulted in adapting the criteria to evaluate, review and compare these practices, all in light of US Government, State, Local, School, and individual Aviation programs pandemic constraints. The Loening Judges need to know how these obstacles and challenges were met in each school's oversight, and the mission accomplishment of their aviation majors in this time of crisis. Below we have provided the format for schools to provide data on areas of interest, performance, and other questions should they wish to be judged for the Loening Trophy.

Due to the lack of team based regional and national competitions over the last two school years, the criteria for the 2021 Loening trophy competition has been revised to reflect the difference between "in-person" presentations and "virtual" presentations. At its core, however, the original charter remains unchanged. What U.S. Aviation Collegiate Academic and Flight Programs continued to excel in meeting or exceeding their students' career and health goals, while providing the best, most highly trained future aviation personnel to aviation industry.

BACKGROUND for May 2021 Selection Criteria for the period Fall 2019 to Spring 2021 Academic Period.

We are fortunate to have three of the Senior Loening Judges: Peter Bro, Chuck Nash and Bob Clement who spent extended periods of personal time with Dr. Loening from 1968 to 1973 before his passing in 1976. During their numerous meetings with Dr. Loening, they were able to ask him extensive questions about his history and involvement in aviation since his days at Columbia University, before he first met the Wright Brothers, and prior to his becoming their first aeronautical engineer. They assumed his emphasis on success would be on his many inventions, patents, historical ""firsts"" or the bedrock foundation he set for - in his words - the "Takeoff into Greatness" for the future of the aviation industry. Dr. Loening's strongest belief was that collegiate aviation programs were the key to the future of the Aviation Industry.

When asked about his "greatest achievement in his career", his answer was a great surprise. Dr. Loening stated that his "most rewarding and challenging accomplishments came during World War II when he was Aviation Special Advisor to the War Production Board (WPB)". When asked why, he stated, "the key to winning WW II in the air was the oversight of the US and Allied aviation manufacturing capabilities."....."keeping aircraft production up to the levels needed to overcome attrition due to war losses was critical to ensure the absolute right mix of front-line fighters, bombers, and transport aircraft, all within the constraints of vital war resources and manpower." It was Dr. Loening, along with his fellow aviation pioneers and friends, Don Douglas, Jack Northrup, Leroy Grumman and Glenn Curtis, along with others under their guidance, who provided the means that won the air war!

For Collegiate aviation, the Pandemic has totally changed the normal paradigm of collegiate aviation training. As in the 1940's it was incumbent upon the collegiate aviation programs to provide the essential future of aviation industry's highly trained personnel. In WW II, in one case, one of our NIFA schools trained over 10% of all pilots in primary flight training to fill wartime demands!

Each team participating in this competition will submit via email to the Loening Judging Committee an electronic copy of their presentation for the judges to review and evaluate NO LATER THAN May 1, 2021. The Loening Trophy is a STUDENT prepared document, with the oversight and necessary assistance from each school's faculty and administration. Members of the school/team are expected to collect, prepare, and present the requested information. Each team will identify one member who will be the focal point for communication with the judges, should they have any questions. On May 10<sup>th</sup>, three (3) of the submitting schools will be invited to be finalists in the competition. At a date to be determined between May 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the finalists may have up to four (4) school/team members participate in a video conference call with the judges. The interviews will happen virtually with a 45-minute maximum, "real time" questions and answers interaction with only students answering the questions.

## Submission Requirements for Loening Judging May 2021

(All submissions single space, 12 pt. Calibri Type, Word format)

Name of School:

Date:

Submission Preparers:

Submission Interview Presenters:

Submission Point of Contact and Contact information:

- 1.) Provide a comprehensive overview and timeline from Fall 2019 to Graduation Spring 2021 of your school's Aviation Department dynamics to meet curriculum guidelines for graduation and education continued advancement within your Aviation Department. Include constraints in the timeline based on Federal, State, Local, School, and Program pandemic guidelines that impacted your Aviation program. (One page or less)
- 2.) Expand on "Best Practices" in each Aviation Major to best meet required curriculum goals and required learning objectives for course completion. (One page or less)
- 3.) Expand on Lessons Learned and recommendations to improve the learning environment to maintain "best as normal" academic standards and practices to achieve course completions within the pandemic constraints. (One page or less)
- 4.) Detail any innovative ideas or practices which helped your Aviation Program achieve the highest quality of continued Aviation education in the difficult pandemic environment. (One page or less)
- 5.) Detail new constraints and best practices to maintain as close to pre-pandemic levels of the Flight Training Department activities. (One page or less)
- 6.) List and expand on any and all activities in a social, academic or professional outreach to provide students with a closer to normal healthy interaction with fellow students, faculty and industry. (One page or less)
- 7.) On attached Excel Spreadsheet list ALL Aviation Department Majors with total enrollment and total number of graduates per semester, per major for Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021