



Director Gold Frequently Asked Questions

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What is the Director Gold Credential?

This certificate recognizes directors who have earned their CCD and BLC certificates and are committed to continuing their education throughout their board service. Director Gold is an *addition* to NRECA's Director Education Program – it does not replace or change any of the existing Director Education certificates earned by directors, including the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) or Board Leadership Certificate (BLC).

Who is Director Gold for?

Director Gold is geared toward directors who are committed to advancing their knowledge throughout their tenure on the board and recognizes electric cooperative directors committed to continuing education.

What are the benefits of earning Director Gold?

Director Gold is the hallmark of a committed electric cooperative director. It helps drive professional self-confidence and demonstrates to members and elected officials of the director's commitment to continuing education. Director Gold credential holders are recognized at NRECA events, receive a name badge ribbon and an official Director Gold Certificate, as well as a congratulatory letter, lapel pin, and credential confirmation.

How can I earn the Director Gold Credential?

Directors must earn their CCD and BLC plus complete an additional 3 credits from BLC courses to be eligible for Director Gold. **Once eligible, directors must "opt in" indicating their intent to earn the Gold credential** before a certificate will be issued. (Please note: repeat courses will not apply toward earning Director Gold.)

Am I eligible for the Director Gold Credential?

Directors interested in enrolling in or finding out if they are eligible for Director Gold can check their attendance record to see if they have already met the program requirements. There are three ways to check your attendance records:

- Log onto Cooperative.com ->Under Profile -> My Learning -> My Course Record
- Check with your co-op's executive or administrative assistant
- Contact Angie Hylton, NRECA's Senior Associate, ETE Certifications at angie.hylton@nreca.coop

To check your eligibility

Go to www.cooperative.com/DirectorGold and click on **VIEW YOUR COURSE RECORD**. If you have taken three BLC-level courses after the date you earned your BLC, you are eligible for Director Gold.

To "opt in" to Director Gold

Complete the "opt-in" form on cooperative.com, fill out the opt-in form available at NRECA hosted training events, or send an email to Angie.hylton@nreca.coop saying "Please enroll me in Director Gold."

How do I maintain my Director Gold once I've earned it?

To maintain Director Gold, directors must earn three credits from the NRECA Approved List of Continuing Education Programs within each two-year (24 months) period that the director serves on their co-op's board. The list of programs eligible for credit may be amended from time to time at NRECA's discretion.

NRECA Approved List of Continuing Education Programs:

- All NRECA director education BLC courses
- NRECA Directors Conference (1 credit per renewal cycle)
- *Statewide annual meetings (1 credit per renewal cycle)
- *CFC Forum (1 credit per renewal cycle)
- *CFC 2-day statewide workshops (1 credit per renewal cycle)

Of the three credits required to fulfill the continuing education requirement, a minimum of two credits must be earned from the NRECA's Board Leadership Certificate 900 level courses. A maximum of one credit may be earned by attending one of the other conferences or programs listed above. Directors may also choose to earn all three continuing education credits from the BLC courses. (We do accept repeating a 900 level BLC course to renew Director Gold but it must more than 5 years since original taken.)

Please note: Renewal certificates will be issued the January after they expire, and attendance records will be updated with new cycle dates around the same time.

**Statewide annual meetings, CFC Forum and CFC statewide workshop credits will not show on the NRECA attendance record but they are tracked and applied separately.*

How will Director Gold Credential holders be recognized?

1. Upon completion of the credits required to earn the Director Gold, a certificate will be mailed to the cooperative with letter stating that he/she has fulfilled the Director Gold requirements. (Please allow 3-4 weeks for processing)
2. NOTE: All two-year terms will expire on December 31 of the second year. Directors earning Director Gold status will be issued a Director Gold ribbon upon their registration at all NRECA-sponsored events during their "active" status in the Director Gold program (e.g., Annual Meeting, Regional Meetings, Directors Conference, Legislative Conference, Summer & Winter Schools)

What happens if I don't complete my continuing education requirement within the two-year period?

Director Gold directors who do not meet the Gold renewal requirements within a 24-month period will become *Inactive*. While a director's status is inactive, Director Gold recognition will not be made by NRECA:

1. No updated certificate will be mailed to the director.
2. No ribbon stating Director Gold will be issued to the director at NRECA-sponsored events.

Reactivation of a lapsed Director Gold Credential

Director Gold may be reactivated at any time during the *Inactive* period as long as the renewal requirements are met. Reactivation will be approved when the director has fulfilled the renewal requirements for the lapsed renewal period. Upon reactivation of the certificate, a new 24-month period is set for the next renewal. (NRECA will hold any credits earned toward 3 needed to renew but it will not carry-over extra credits)

If you have questions about the Director Gold Program or other Director Education programs, please contact – Danielle Jackson at danielle.jackson@nreca.coop or Angie Hylton at angie.hylton@nreca.coop