

ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2027

Submission Guide



February 5, 2027



Westin Bellevue



REQUEST FOR NOMINATION

2027 Engineer of the Year Nominations Are Now Open

Every great engineering solution begins with a vision.

Every enduring impact begins with an engineer who is willing to make a difference.

Key Dates

- Nominations Open: September 3, 2026
- Submission Deadline: November 20, 2026
- Review Period: November 30-December 2, 2026
- Winner Notified: December 7, 2026

How to Nominate

1. Write a Nomination Statement (300–500 words) presenting a clear and compelling case for why the nominee deserves the Engineer of the Year Award. The statement should address the nominee's career impact across the evaluation criteria, with emphasis on specific accomplishments, individual contributions, leadership roles, measurable outcomes where applicable, and impact on the engineering profession and broader community.
2. Include a high-resolution headshot.
3. You may also include up to 8 single-sided pages of supporting material. Supporting materials may include letters of support, technical or project examples, awards and recognition, leadership and service accomplishments, publications or presentations, mentoring or workforce-development initiatives, community involvement, or other evidence that directly supports the evaluation criteria. Supporting materials should complement rather than simply repeat the nomination statement.
4. Email your nomination to Pamela Beachnau at pbeachnau@acec-wa.org.

Note: You must be an ACEC Washington member to submit a nomination.

A photograph of a modern house with a grey roof and white siding, set against a clear blue sky. A well-maintained green lawn and a wooden fence are in the foreground.

Engineer of the Year Award Criteria

The Engineer of the Year Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, leadership, and service to the engineering profession over the course of their career. Nominees should reflect the highest standards of technical practice, professional integrity, leadership, and public service.

Successful nominations should clearly demonstrate the nominee's individual contributions, leadership roles, and impact on their firm, clients, the engineering profession, and the broader community. Materials should focus on the nominee's specific accomplishments rather than the general success of projects, firms, or teams.

Whenever possible, nominations should demonstrate impact through specific examples, outcomes, scale, measurable results, recognition, or evidence of the nominee's influence on people, organizations, communities, or the engineering profession.

Who We're Looking For

An exceptional Professional Engineer (PE) who meets the following eligibility requirements:

- Has lived in Washington for at least five years and has either practiced engineering in Washington or made significant professional contributions to Washington's engineering community for at least five years
- Is actively working in the profession or has retired from the profession within the past two years
- Has upheld the highest ethical standards and served the public with distinction
- Has made a sustained impact over at least 15 years through technical excellence, leadership, mentorship, advocacy, public service, and contributions to the engineering profession and community.

A photograph of a modern house with a grey roof and white walls, set against a clear blue sky. The house is partially obscured by a wooden fence and a well-manicured green lawn.

Eligibility and Career Impact

Nominees should have a minimum of 15 years of professional engineering experience and a demonstrated record of meaningful contributions to the engineering profession. The strongest candidates will show a balance of technical excellence, leadership, mentorship, advocacy, public service, and community impact.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Technical Excellence

25 points

Nominees should demonstrate a sustained record of technical excellence and strong professional practice throughout their career. This may include significant engineering contributions, technical leadership, complex project work, specialized expertise, innovation, problem-solving, or recognition within a technical discipline. Nominations should clearly explain the nominee's personal role and technical contribution. Project descriptions should not simply describe the project as a whole; they should show how the nominee advanced the work, solved challenges, led technical decisions, or contributed to successful outcomes.

Strong submissions should demonstrate not only the complexity or significance of the work, but also what the nominee personally did that distinguished their technical contribution. Where applicable, nominators are encouraged to identify specific challenges addressed, innovations introduced, risks mitigated, efficiencies achieved, or improvements in safety, quality, cost, performance, resiliency, or project delivery.

2. Advancing Engineering Knowledge and the Built Environment

20 points

Nominees should show evidence of advancing engineering knowledge and improving the built environment through their work. This may include innovative projects, development of best practices, publications, presentations, technical society involvement, thought leadership, sustainability achievements, resiliency work, or contributions that have influenced how engineering is practiced.

Judges will consider how the nominee's work has elevated the profession, improved communities, advanced public infrastructure, or contributed to safer, more sustainable, and more effective engineering solutions.

Contributions do not need to be academic or formally published. Advancement may also be demonstrated through the development, implementation, or broader adoption of engineering approaches, standards, tools, technologies, processes, or practices that have improved project delivery or influenced how engineering is practiced.

3. Service Excellence and Leadership

30 points

Nominees should demonstrate broad leadership and service to the engineering profession. Strong candidates will show leadership beyond their individual project work, including leadership within their firm, professional organizations, statewide or national committees, boards, advocacy efforts, mentoring programs, education initiatives, or industry partnerships.

Judges will look for evidence that the nominee has helped strengthen the engineering community as a whole. This may include mentoring emerging professionals, supporting workforce development, advocating for the profession, serving in visible leadership roles, contributing to industry-wide

initiatives, or helping advance the business and practice of engineering. The strongest nominations will demonstrate a diverse range of leadership, including leadership with the nominee's company, clients, professional organizations, and the public.

Judges will consider not only the leadership roles held by the nominee, but also the results and impact of that leadership. Nominations should explain how the nominee's involvement strengthened people, organizations, programs, initiatives, or the engineering profession.

4. Ethical Standards and Public Service

20 points

Nominees should demonstrate a consistent commitment to the highest ethical standards of the engineering profession, including integrity, accountability, public safety, and responsible decision-making.

Evidence may include examples of responsible professional judgment, a commitment to public health and safety, ethical leadership, stewardship, transparency, accountability, advocacy for sound engineering practice, or decisions in which the nominee placed the public interest and responsibilities of the profession at the forefront.

Judges will also consider the nominee's service to the public and broader community. This may include civic leadership, charitable or nonprofit involvement, community service, safety leadership, public advocacy, or work that has had a meaningful benefit beyond the nominee's firm or clients.

The strongest nominations will demonstrate a diverse range of leadership across the nominee's company, clients, professional organizations, and the public.

5. Quality of Nomination Materials

5 points

Nomination materials should be clear, specific, well organized, and responsive to the award criteria. The nomination statement should present a compelling case for why the individual deserves the Engineer of the Year Award and clearly distinguish the nominee's personal contributions from the accomplishments of their firm, project teams, or organizations. Supporting materials should provide relevant evidence that strengthens and validates the nomination rather than relying primarily on standard marketing materials or general project descriptions.

Guidance for Nominators

To help judges fairly evaluate each nominee, nominations should:

- Clearly identify the nominee's individual role, accomplishments, and contributions.
- Demonstrate impact beyond participation in successful projects or teams.
- Use specific examples and, when available, measurable outcomes or evidence of impact.
- Include examples of leadership within the nominee's firm, the engineering profession, and the broader community.
- Highlight mentorship, advocacy, committee or board service, professional organization involvement, education, and workforce-development efforts where applicable.
- Explain what changed, improved, or became possible because of the nominee's leadership or involvement.
- Demonstrate how the nominee has strengthened the engineering profession and the people within it.
- Avoid relying primarily on project summaries, resumes, or standard firm marketing materials.
- Connect supporting materials directly to the evaluation criteria.

The Engineer of the Year Award is intended to honor a well-rounded engineering leader whose career reflects sustained technical excellence, professional leadership, mentorship, and service, ethical practice, advancement of the profession, and meaningful public and community impact.

Evaluation at a Glance

Nominations will be evaluated on a 100-point scale:

- **Technical Excellence — 25 points**
- **Advancing Engineering Knowledge and the Built Environment — 20 points**
- **Service Excellence and Leadership — 30 points**
- **Ethical Standards and Public Service — 20 points**
- **Quality of Nomination Materials — 5 points**

Judges will evaluate the nominee's individual accomplishments and impact. The size, visibility, or prestige of a nominee's firm or projects will not, by itself, result in a higher evaluation.

Questions? Please email Pamela Beachnau at pbeachnau@acec-wa.org