ACEC ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

RISING STAR IN ENGINEERING AWARD 2027

Submission Guide



February 5, 2027

Westin Bellevue



ACEC ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

REQUEST FOR NOMINATION

About the Award

The **ACEC Washington Rising Star in Engineering Award** recognizes an emerging engineering professional who is already making a meaningful impact on their firm, clients, communities, and the engineering profession.

The award celebrates professionals early in their careers who demonstrate technical excellence, leadership, initiative, service, and a commitment to advancing the profession.

The strongest nominees will demonstrate not only professional accomplishment, but also the potential and commitment to shape the future of engineering.

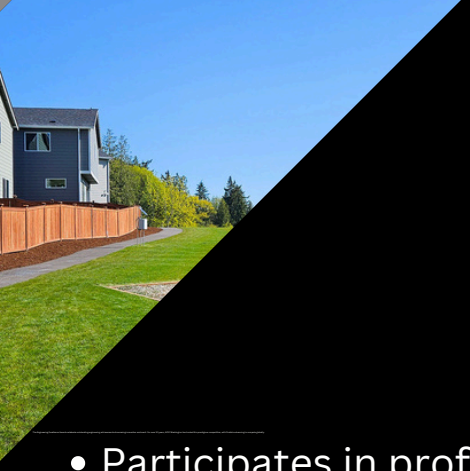
The recipient may be selected by ACEC Washington for nomination to the ACEC National Young Professional of the Year Award, subject to National eligibility requirements.

National describes its award as recognizing emerging leaders who have made meaningful contributions to their firms, clients, and communities through excellence, leadership, and service.

Who We're Looking For

An emerging engineering professional who:

- Demonstrates strong technical ability and sound professional judgment.
- Has already made meaningful contributions to projects, clients, their firm, or the engineering profession.
- Shows initiative and leadership beyond the expectations of their current position.
- Supports and develops colleagues and contributes positively to workplace culture.



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- Participates in professional, civic, volunteer, educational, or community activities.
- Demonstrates integrity, collaboration, curiosity, and a commitment to continued professional growth.
- Shows the potential to become a significant leader within Washington's engineering community.

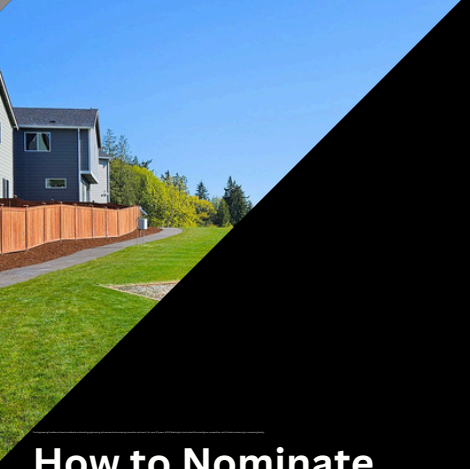
Eligibility

To be eligible for the ACEC Washington Rising Star in Engineering Award, the nominee must:

- Be employed by an ACEC Washington member firm at the time of nomination.
- Be actively working in the engineering profession.
- Be 35 years of age or younger as of December 31, 2026, if the nominee is to remain eligible for advancement to the ACEC National Young Professional of the Year Award.
- Demonstrate meaningful professional contributions and leadership within engineering, their firm, or their community.

Professional Licensure

A Professional Engineer (PE) license is not required for the ACEC Washington Rising Star in Engineering Award. Professional registrations and licenses may be included as part of the nominee's credentials, where applicable.



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How to Nominate

1. Nominee Information

Please provide:

Nominee

- Full Name
- Job Title
- Firm
- Email
- Phone
- Age as of December 31, 2026
- Years in the engineering profession
- Engineering discipline
- Professional registrations or licenses, if applicable
- College/University
- Degree(s)

Nominator

- Name
- Title
- Firm
- Email
- Phone
- Relationship to nominee



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2. Nomination Statement
500 words maximum

Please answer:
Why should this individual be recognized as ACEC Washington's Rising Star in Engineering?

The statement should provide a clear and compelling overview of the nominee's accomplishments, leadership, professional growth, service, and impact.

Strong nominations should demonstrate what distinguishes this individual from other professionals at a similar stage of their career.

Whenever possible, include specific examples, outcomes, measurable results, or evidence of the nominee's influence on projects, people, clients, communities, or the engineering profession.

3. Nominee Responses

A. Technical Achievement & Problem Solving
250 words maximum

Describe a technical challenge, project, or problem in which you played a meaningful role. What was your individual contribution, what approach did you take, and what was the outcome?

Judges will consider technical ability, problem-solving, creativity, collaboration, professional judgment, and demonstrated impact.



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B. Leadership & Influence
250 words maximum
Describe an example of how you have demonstrated leadership or influenced others, regardless of your formal title. What did you do, who did it impact, and what changed as a result?
Leadership may include:

- leading a project or initiative
- mentoring colleagues
- improving a workplace process
- developing others
- building stronger client relationships
- advancing inclusion or workplace culture
- serving in a professional organization
- leading through collaboration
- introducing a new idea or practice

Service, Purpose, and the Future of Engineering
250 words maximum
How are you contributing to the engineering profession or your community beyond your primary job responsibilities, and what impact do you hope to have on the future of engineering?
Examples may include:

- professional associations
- volunteer or nonprofit work
- STEM education
- mentoring
- advocacy
- community service
- workforce development
- university engagement
- industry committees
- efforts to improve access or opportunity within engineering



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4. Professional & Community Involvement

Provide a brief list of the nominee's most significant activities from approximately the past five years.
Include the organization, role, and years of involvement when applicable.

Examples include:

Professional Leadership

- ACEC participation
- professional societies
- industry committees
- boards
- technical organizations
- conference or educational involvement

Community & Volunteer Service

- nonprofit organizations
- civic service
- STEM outreach
- school or university programs
- charitable involvement
- mentoring programs

Recognition

- awards
- honors
- scholarships
- professional recognition
- significant certifications

Keep this section to one page maximum.



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5. Supporting Statement

250 words maximum
Include one statement from a principal, supervisor, client, mentor, or other professional familiar with the nominee's work.

Please answer:
What distinguishes this individual as an emerging leader in the engineering profession, and why should they be recognized as ACEC Washington's Rising Star in Engineering?

The supporting statement should provide an outside perspective on the nominee's accomplishments, character, leadership, and potential.

6. Headshot
Include one high-resolution professional headshot.
The headshot may be used in ACEC Washington award communications, event materials, website content, social media, and materials recognizing finalists and award recipients.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Technical Excellence & Problem-Solving
25 points

Nominees should demonstrate strong technical ability, professional judgment, problem solving, innovation, collaboration, or meaningful contributions to successful engineering outcomes.

Judges will evaluate the nominee's individual contribution, not simply the size or prestige of the project.



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Strong nominations will explain:

- what challenge existed
- what the nominee personally contributed
- how they approached the challenge
- what result occurred
- why their contribution mattered

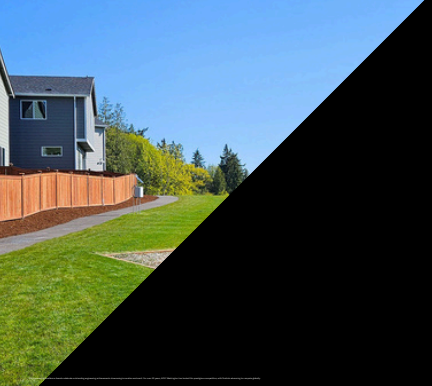
2. Leadership & Initiative
25 points

Nominees should demonstrate leadership beyond what would normally be expected at their career level.
Leadership does not require a management title.

Judges may consider:

- project leadership
- initiative
- mentoring
- team development
- client leadership
- organizational improvements
- innovation
- workplace culture
- professional organization leadership
- ability to influence and inspire others

Judges will consider both the roles held and the impact of the nominee's leadership.



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3. Professional & Community Impact
20 points
Nominees should demonstrate meaningful engagement beyond their immediate project responsibilities.
This may include:

- professional organization involvement
- community leadership
- volunteer service
- STEM outreach
- mentoring
- education
- workforce development
- advocacy
- civic involvement

Strong nominations will demonstrate how the nominee's involvement has benefited people, communities, organizations, or the engineering profession.

4. Growth, Potential & Future Impact
20 points
The Rising Star in Engineering Award is intended to recognize individuals whose accomplishments demonstrate exceptional promise for continued leadership and impact.
Judges will consider:

- professional growth
- initiative
- curiosity and continued learning
- increasing responsibility
- ability to influence others
- commitment to the engineering profession
- demonstrated potential for future leadership

The strongest nominees will show that their impact is **already significant while their leadership trajectory is still developing.**



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5. Professional Character & Integrity
10 points

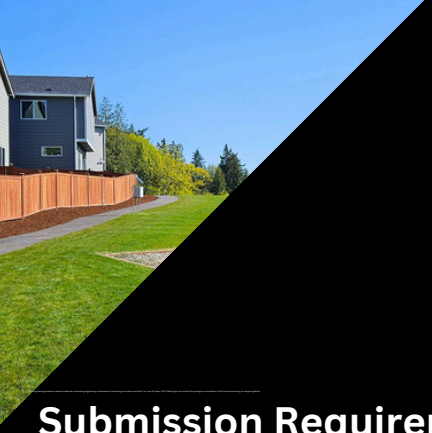
Nominees should demonstrate professionalism, integrity, accountability, collaboration, respect, and commitment to the responsibilities of the engineering profession.
Judges may consider examples demonstrating:

- ethical judgment
- accountability
- commitment to public welfare
- trust with clients and colleagues
- teamwork
- respect for differing perspectives
- responsible professional decision-making

Evaluation Category Points
Technical Excellence & Problem-Solving — 25
Leadership & Initiative — 25
Professional & Community Impact — 20
Growth, Potential & Future Impact — 20
Professional Character & Integrity — 10
TOTAL — 100

Guidance for Nominators
To help judges fairly evaluate nominees:

- Focus on the individual, not simply impressive projects or the success of their firm.
- Explain what the nominee personally contributed.
- Provide specific examples rather than general statements such as “outstanding leader” or “excellent engineer.”
- Include outcomes and measurable impact whenever available.
- Demonstrate leadership appropriate to the nominee’s career stage.



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Submission Requirements

Submit one combined PDF containing:

1. Nominee and Nominator Information
2. Nomination Statement
3. Three Nominee Responses
4. Professional & Community Involvement
5. Supporting Statement
6. High-Resolution Headshot

Suggested file name:
2027_Rising_Star_LastName_FirstName.pdf

Formatting

- Minimum 11-point font
- Standard margins
- Clearly label each section
- Follow all stated word limits
- External links should not be used as a substitute for required information
- Materials exceeding the stated limits may not be considered

Email your nomination to **Pamela Beachnau** at pbeachnau@acec-wa.org
Submission Deadline: November 20, 2026

The recipient of the ACEC Washington Rising Star in Engineering Award may be selected to represent ACEC Washington in the ACEC National Young Professional of the Year Award, provided the recipient meets National eligibility and submission requirements. ACEC Washington will work with the selected nominee and their firm to prepare any additional materials required for the National submission.