



ACEC Award of Merit Criteria Guidelines

The Award of Merit is the Council's highest award given to an individual for exemplary achievement in engineering, pure or applied natural science.

1. **Name of Award:** ACEC Award of Merit
2. **Nominations:** Nominations for this award may be made by any M.O. Executive Director or employee of a current member firm.
 - Email any questions regarding nominations to Megan Thrift, mthrift@acec.org in advance of completing your nomination form.
 - All nominations must be complete and submitted on the electronic nomination form provided by 11:59pm Eastern Time on December 12, 2025.
3. **Evaluation and Selection of Nominees:** The evaluation of the nominees for the award will be made by the Award of Merit Subcommittee. The Sub-committee will recommend the top nominee(s) to the ACEC Executive Committee for review and approval.
4. **Criteria for Award:**

The nominee must have:

 - Unquestioned integrity.
 - Displayed initiative, inventiveness, exceptional industry, individuality, cooperativeness, and leadership, resulting in a preeminently high measure of accomplishment in the field of the nominee's activities related to the engineering of the built environment.
 - Such stature and renown to continue the prestige and purpose of the award.
5. **Past Recipients:** Past ACEC Award of Merit winners include former Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Herbert Hoover, along with Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, Carl Sagan, Astronaut Neil Armstrong, Norman Mineta, and Robert Ballard.
6. **Recognition:** The recipient will be recognized and invited to speak at the annual *Engineering Excellence Award* Gala, Tuesday, May 6, 2026.