



Young Professional of the Year 2026 Award Guidelines

Purpose: This award recognizes young engineers whose professional excellence, leadership, and service have advanced their firms, strengthened their communities, and positively represented the engineering profession.

1. Nominations

- **Eligibility**
 - Nominees must be employed by a **member firm** of their respective **Member Organization (MO)**.
 - Each **MO may submit up to two (2) nominations** to the national competition.
 - Nominees must meet all eligibility and criteria requirements outlined in Section 3.
- **Submission Process**
 - Nominations must be submitted through an MO. Direct submissions from individuals will not be accepted.
 - Nominations are due to the applicable MO prior to the ACEC national deadline.
 - *Please check with your MO for their internal submission date.*
- **MO submissions to ACEC are due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2026.**
 - All nominations must be complete and submitted electronically using the official nomination form provided.
 - Completed nominations must be emailed to **Megan Thrift** at ACEC.

Important Note:

Incomplete or late submissions may not be accepted for consideration.

2. Evaluation and Selection of Nominees

- The Young Professional Awards Subcommittee of the ACEC Fellows Committee will review all nominations.



- The Subcommittee will evaluate eligible submissions and recommend the top five (5) finalists to the Fellows Committee.
- The finalist with the highest overall ranking will be named the ACEC Young Professional of the Year.
- The announcement will take place during the Awards Luncheon at the ACEC Fall Conference.

Evaluation Criteria

Nominations will be reviewed and scored based on:

- **Professional Accomplishment** – Evidence of excellence, innovation, and technical achievement in the nominee’s area of practice.
- **Leadership and Initiative** – Demonstrated leadership within the firm, community, or profession; initiative that has produced measurable results.
- **Community and Societal Impact** – Contributions that have positively influenced clients, communities, or the engineering profession.
- **Potential for Continued Growth** – Promise of continued leadership and engagement in the industry.

Nominators are encouraged to provide concise, factual examples, and measurable results that support the nominee’s qualifications.

3. Criteria for Award

To be eligible for consideration, nominees must meet **all** of the following requirements:

- Be an employee of an ACEC member firm in good standing.
- Be an engineer aged 35 years or younger as of December 31, 2026.
- Be a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) or hold an equivalent professional license in their field of expertise.

Nominees should demonstrate excellence not only in technical practice but also in **leadership, innovation, and service** that elevate the visibility and value of the engineering profession.

4. Recognition

- All five finalists will be recognized in person at the Awards Luncheon during



ACEC's Fall Conference.

- The Young Professional of the Year will be announced live at the event.
- The award recipient will receive a College of Fellows scholarship to attend the virtual ACEC Business of Design Consulting Seminar.

5. Additional Requirements

- Each nomination must include complete contact information for both the nominee and the nominating MO.
- Nominations should include references for verification of the nominee's accomplishments and community engagement.
 - *References may be contacted by ACEC if the nominee is selected as a finalist.*
- All information provided must be accurate, complete, and verifiable.