2026

SHPE

STAR Awards

SHPE Technical Achievement and Recognition

Nominations Deadline

JULY 10, 2026

SHPE 2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
STEM FOR THE BOLD
OCTOBER 28 - 31
SHPE.ORG/2026

ABOUT THE

STAR AWARDS

SHPE will proudly recognize its 2026 SHPE Technical Achievement and Recognition (STAR) Award recipients during the SHPE National Convention on October 28 - 31, 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

These prestigious awards honor outstanding professionals for their dedication, commitment, and selfless efforts to grow and advance Hispanics in STEM careers. STAR Awards also recognize a company and government agency for demonstrating significant, measurable, and visible assistance to further SHPE's programs.

VIEW THE COMPLETE LIST OF 2025 STAR AWARD HONOREES



NOMINATION GUIDELINES

All materials for submission must be submitted electronically through the awards platform. No email submissions will be accepted.

NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR STAR AWARDS DUE BY JULY 10, 2026

» A candidate may be nominated for more than one award.

» The candidate must meet the criteria as stated in each award description.

TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION, THE FOLLOWING IS REQUIRED:

1. Completed online SHPE STAR Awards Nomination Form.
2. Biographical sketch that is no more than two typed pages.
3. Nominee Merit Description: No more than two typed pages covering the following:
   - Describe the nominee's contributions and achievements, including dates and impact.
   - Describe specific examples of how the nominee's efforts resulted in the enhancement, development, and/or promotion of SHPE.
4. Supplemental merit items such as articles, letters of recommendation, publications, etc. (Limit of 10)
5. High-resolution headshot of the nominee must be submitted as a JPG file with a required DPI of 300.

Additional documents as required by specific awards.

FILE UPLOAD GUIDELINES

In order to streamline the submissions process and to ensure complete reviews, please adhere to the following requirements for your file uploads:

» All materials for submission must be submitted through the awards platform. No email submissions will be accepted.

» High-resolution headshot of the nominee must be submitted as a JPG file with a required DPI of 300.

THE NOMINATION GUIDELINES ARE APPLICABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING AWARDS:

Members and corporate/government partners are able to nominate peers in all of the following categories.

» Executive Achievement Award — Corporate/Government

» Climate Sustainability Award

» Community Service Award

» Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award

» Educator Achievement Award — K-12/Higher Education

» Entrepreneur Award

» Hispanic ERG Award

» Innovator Award

» Managerial Excellence Award — Corporate/Government

» Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award

» Role Model Award — Undergraduate/Graduate/Professional

» Star of Today Award — Corporate/Government

» Star of Tomorrow Award — Corporate/Government

» STEM Warrior Award

» Young Investigator Award

Nomination Form

AWARD

CATEGORIES



Executive Achievement Award - Corporate 2025, Calline K. Sanchez

EXECUTIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Corporate and Government

This prestigious award is presented to a highly visible individual with project, budget, and departmental responsibilities who has made significant accomplishments in the scientific, technical, or engineering arena within a corporation.

The recipient should be an executive who has achieved great success and gained the respect of their peers through outstanding technical expertise. Awards are presented to corporate employees and government employees separately.

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

- C-Suite or equivalent
- Five or more years of experience in a technical field
- The nominee's department should have a technical basis
- Highly visible individual who has achieved great success within his or her organization
- Executive who has gained the respect of his or her peers through outstanding technical expertise



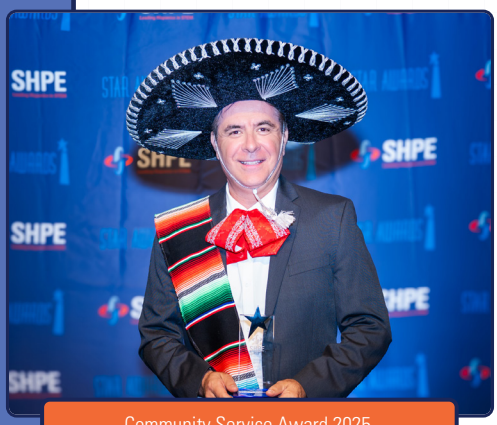
Climate Sustainability Award 2025, Yari Escobar

CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Presented to a recipient who has designed a new device, system or technology that conserves energy or natural resources, reduces the production and emission of pollutants, or reduces the organization's carbon footprint significantly below current levels.

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Be a SHPE member
- Proof of honoree's support for community-based initiatives to address environmental issues must accompany the nomination



Community Service Award 2025, Martin J. Enriquez

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Presented to a nominee whose accomplishments and extraordinary efforts consistently demonstrate a sincere commitment to the goals of SHPE and the Hispanic community.

- SHPE membership is not a requirement for nomination. Previous honorees have included both SHPE members and non-members.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AWARD

Presented to a recipient who strives to ensure Hispanic advancement in job promotions, business development, and community activities within an organization. The honoree supports and leads diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the workplace and champions diversity in the community.

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

» Be able to demonstrate how they lead DEI efforts in the workplace



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award 2025, Eddison M. Flores



Educator Achievement Award - Higher Education 2025, Rodrigo Martinez-Duarte

EDUCATOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

K-12 and Higher Education

This award recognizes the exemplary contributions made by current administrators and faculty to improve the learning environment for Hispanic students in K-12 and higher education. Awards are presented at the K-12 level and college/university level separately.

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

» K-12 nominees must be a math or science teacher at an accredited school in the United States or Puerto Rico, with a minimum of five years of teaching experience

» Higher education nominees must be tenure track or tenured faculty, staff, or an administrator either at a two- year college or an ABET accredited four-year college or university in the United States or Puerto Rico



Educator Achievement Award - K-12 2025, Edgar Monroy

ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

This award is presented to an entrepreneur who owns and/or operates a successful engineering or technology business. The business must have a history of clear growth and demonstrated innovation while also providing visible assistance to the community.

The nominee's company must meet the following criteria:

» More than 15 employees

The nomination package must include the following additional documentation:

» Proof of business ownership

HISPANIC ERG AWARD

This award recognizes an organization's outstanding Hispanic Employee Resource Group (ERG) for its effectiveness in the areas of culture, career, and community, clearly demonstrating the ERG's dedication to and success in attaining impactful results that foster a diverse and inclusive environment in their workplace.

The ERG must meet the following criteria:

» ERG must be in operation for at least two years.
» Only one (1) submission per company is allowed. Those organizations with more than one ERG, or who have numerous chapters, should submit an entry that is representative of their collective contributions.
» ERG must demonstrate significant contributions and achievements in culture, career, and community.



Hispanic ERG Award 2025, Sandia National Laboratories Hispanic Outreach for Leadership and Awareness (HOLA)

INNOVATOR AWARD

This award honors a scientist or engineer who has made innovative contributions to the fields of science and engineering by actively creating new paths in science research and technology. Their accomplishments should advance the goal of inventing breakthroughs and opening doors for others.

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

» Have a minimum of one patent
» Be a U.S. citizen or legal resident

The nomination package must include the following additional documentation:

» Have proof of patent



Entrepreneur Award 2025, Paola M. Santana



Innovator Award 2025, Angel F. Porras

MANAGERIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Corporate and Government

This award honors a manager who is recognized for professional excellence in leading a STEM team or group. The nominee must have demonstrated innovative leadership in managing, inspiring, and motivating project teams, and promotes diversity in the work environment. Awards are presented to corporate employees and government employees separately.

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

» Individual with five or more years of managerial experience

The nomination package must include the following additional documentation:

» A letter of endorsement from immediate team or group.



Managerial Excellence Award - Corporate 2025, Mercedes Valladares

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER ADVISOR AWARD

This award is presented to an official chapter advisor with a proven record of commitment and support to SHPE's mission and vision, has demonstrated advocacy for STEM programs, and provided diligent support for the success and development of the chapter they advise.

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

» Individual with at least 3 years of service as a SHPE Chapter Advisor

The nomination package must include the following additional documentation:

» A letter of endorsement from the student chapter they advise.

» Two examples of the nominees' contributions to the chapter made during the past year.



Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award 2025, Christian David Guzman

ROLE MODEL AWARD

Undergraduate, Graduate, and Professional

This award is presented to outstanding SHPE members who have provided selfless and outstanding contributions to SHPE and the Hispanic community. Nominee must be an active SHPE member who exemplifies honor, community service, and leadership through their commitment to SHPE. Awards are presented to graduate, professional, and undergraduate members separately.

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Nominees must be a current member of SHPE in the category they are nominated in.

The nomination package must include the following additional documentation:

- Graduate nominees must have a letter of endorsement from their chapter or Regional Graduate Representative
- Professional nominees must have a letter of endorsement from their chapter or Regional Vice President
- Undergraduate nominees must have a letter of endorsement from their chapter or Regional Student Representative
- Undergraduate and Graduate Role Model Award honorees each receive a $2500 scholarship!



Role Model Award - Undergraduate 2025, Andrea Godoy



Role Model Award - Graduate 2025, Jose Luiz Sarabia Torres



Role Model Award - Professional 2025, Andreína Vivas Thomas

STAR OF TODAY AWARD

Corporate and Government

This award honors a mid-level STEM employee who has demonstrated outstanding technical excellence resulting in significant accomplishments. This individual should be highly regarded and demonstrate exemplary leadership attributes, serving as a role model in the areas of professionalism, integrity, dedication, and a commitment to mentoring and community service.

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Individual with six to fifteen (6-15) years of experience

The nomination package must include the following additional documentation:

- Copies of certificates or awards earned at work
- Current resumé
- Letter of endorsement from immediate team or group



Star of Today Award - Corporate 2025, Dr. Karin Rudman Prieto



Star of Today Award - Government 2025, J. Felipe Ruiz

STAR OF TOMORROW AWARD

Corporate and Government

This award honors a STEM employee who has demonstrated outstanding technical performance and is recognized by their peers and superiors. This individual should demonstrate a commitment to excellence and exhibit the potential for becoming a strong leader within their organization, serving as a role model in the areas of professionalism, integrity, dedication, and a commitment to mentoring and community service.

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

» Individual with three to seven (3-7) years of experience

The nomination package must include the following additional documentation:

» Copies of certificates or awards earned at work
» Current resumé
» Letter of endorsement from immediate team or group



Star of Tomorrow Award - Corporate 2025, Isabel Meza



Star of Tomorrow Award - Government 2025, Dr. Rachid Darbali-Zamora

STEM WARRIOR AWARD

This award honors a Hispanic STEM professional in the US military who is highly regarded and demonstrates exemplary leadership attributes. This individual will have significant accomplishments in the scientific, technical, engineering, or mathematical arena within a corporation or government organization.

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

» Individual is a US military officer or enlisted; on active duty or a veteran.

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

This award recognizes the exemplary contributions made by a young scientist, technologist, engineer, or mathematician who has contributed in outstanding and innovative ways to the progress of research in any field of science, technology, engineering, or math.

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

» Individual must be 35 years of age or younger prior to October 31, 2026.



Young Investigator Award 2025, Daniel Oropeza

SPECIAL

RECOGNITIONS

Nominees for STAR Awards who meet the requirements of each award will be considered for the following prestigious awards.

- Rodrigo Garcia Founder's Award
- Jaime Oaxaca Award
- Dr. Ellen Ochoa Award
- Rubén Hinojosa STEM Champion Award

These awards are selected by a special leadership committee and not open to direct nominations.



Rodrigo Garcia Founder's Award 2025, Jay Flores

RODRIGO GARCIA FOUNDER'S AWARD

Many SHPE members will tell you that founder Rod Garcia's vision has changed their life, affording them access and opportunities they would not have had otherwise. Over close to 50 years, Rod's limitless compassion and unwavering service to others was critical to the success of SHPE. This award honors his accomplishments and memorializes him as the guiding light of the organization that is leading Hispanics in STEM.

The honoree will meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate consistent dedication to SHPE's growth and advancement.
- Demonstrate compassion and a commitment to service of others.
- Be a SHPE Lifetime member for at least 10 years.
- Not have previously received the Rodrigo Garcia Founder's Award.

JAIME OAXACA AWARD

This important award recognizes a SHPE professional member's selfless and outstanding contributions in the fields of engineering and science to the Hispanic community over an extended period.

Jaime Oaxaca is a distinguished SHPE member who worked tirelessly for many years to promote mathematics and science education for all. The recipient symbolizes, as does the namesake Jaime Oaxaca, the ideal role model for today's youth by providing a consistent, living example that "Si Se Puede."



Jaime Oaxaca Award 2025, Jubencio Linares

SPECIAL

RECOGNITIONS

DR. ELLEN OCHOA AWARD

The Dr. Ellen Ochoa Award is reserved for a Hispanic female engineer or scientist who has made outstanding contributions in the fields of aerospace engineering including management, administration, technology, and education.

Dr. Ellen Ochoa award recipients are role models whose example inspires others, especially Latinas, to reach for the stars, as Dr. Ellen Ochoa did when she became the first Latina to travel into space in 1993 aboard the space shuttle Discovery.



Dr. Ellen Ochoa Award 2025, Sandra Martínez-Compton

RUBÉN HINOJOSA STEM CHAMPION AWARD

The Rubén Hinojosa STEM Champion Award honors community and philanthropic leaders with a proven legacy of passionately supporting Hispanics in STEM. The award was named for retired Congressman Rubén Hinojosa, co-founder of Hispanic Engineering, Science, and Technology Week (HESTEC) and a longtime champion of Hispanics in STEM. Congressman Hinojosa was the first recipient of this annual award.



Rubén Hinojosa STEM Champion Award 2025, Congresswoman Luz Rivas

SPECIAL

RECOGNITIONS

These awards are selected by a special leadership committee and not open to direct nominations.

COMPANY OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a company's outstanding commitment to empower Hispanics through STEM awareness, access, support, and development; and their commitment to ensuring Hispanics are highly valued as influential leaders in STEM.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a government agency for its endorsement of STEM awareness, access, support, and development initiatives; and their commitment to ensuring Hispanics are highly valued as influential leaders of emerging technologies.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR

Recognizes an institution's outstanding commitment to empower Hispanics through STEM awareness, access, support, and development; and their commitment to ensuring Hispanics are highly valued as influential leaders in STEM.



Company of the Year 2025,
Medtronic PLC



Academic Institution of the Year 2025,
Virginia Tech

→ THANK YOU TO OUR

2025-2026 INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
















































































THANK YOU TO OUR

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Case School of Engineering Case Western Reserve University
The Catholic University of America School of Engineering
College of Science & Engineering Central Michigan University
CSU Washkewicz College of Engineering
TCNJ The College of New Jersey
College of the Canyons
Columbia Engineering
Dartmouth Engineering
Duke Pratt School of Engineering
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
George Mason University College of Engineering and Computing
Georgia Tech College of Engineering
Houston Community College
JMU College of Integrated Science and Engineering
Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering
Kansas State University Carl R. Ice College of Engineering
Lafayette College
Laredo College Est. 1947
Lehigh University P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Opus College of Engineering Marquette University
MIT School of Engineering
Michigan Technological University 1885
Minnesota State University, Mankato College of Science, Engineering & Technology
Missouri S&T
New Mexico Tech Science • Engineering • Research University
NM State Be Bold. Shape the Future. College of Engineering
New York Institute of Technology College of Engineering & Computing Sciences
NC State Engineering
North Central College 1861
Oakland University School of Engineering and Computer Science
Purdue University Northwest College of Engineering and Sciences School of Engineering
Purdue University College of Engineering
Rowan University Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering
SDSU College of Engineering
SJSU Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering
SBCC Santa Barbara City College
South Dakota Mines
SMU Lyle School of Engineering
St. Mary's University
Temple University College of Engineering
Texas State University
UC Merced
Berkeley College of Engineering
UCI Samueli School of Engineering University of California, Irvine
UC Riverside Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering
UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering
UCF College of Engineering and Computer Science University of Central Florida
University of Colorado Boulder
Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering & Computer Science University of Denver
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UTA College of Engineering
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The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
UT Tyler College of Engineering
UVA Engineering
College of Engineering University of Washington
College of Engineering University of Wisconsin–Madison
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt School of Engineering
Wichita State University
WPI School of Engineering