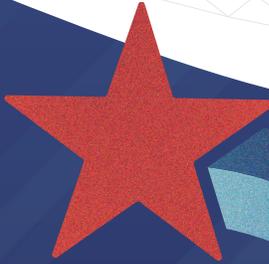




2025

SHPE



# STAR Awards

SHPE Technical Achievement and Recognition

Nominations Deadline

**JUNE 22, 2025**



About The

# STAR AWARDS

SHPE will proudly recognize its 2025 SHPE Technical Achievement and Recognition (STAR) Award recipients during the SHPE National Convention on October 29 - November 1, 2025 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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 2024 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 June 22, 2025

- » 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 Employee Resource Group 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 Government Award 2024,  
Anselmo G. Collins



Climate Sustainability Award 2024,  
Yisarai Valbuena Sanchez



Community Service Award 2024,  
Odalys Lopez

## 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

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

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 2024,  
Hector Garcia



Educator of the Year - Higher Education Award 2024,  
Idalis Villanueva Alarcon

## 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

## 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 Employee Resource Group 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 of the Year 2024, HP Inc. Hispanic/Latino BRG

## 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 2024,  
Robert Delgado



Innovator Award 2024,  
Nicholas M. Castillo

## 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 - Government 2024,  
Edgar Magallanes



Managerial Excellence Award - Corporate 2024,  
Ana Catalina Tharp

## 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 2024,  
John J. Ramirez Avila

## 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!



Undergraduate Role Model Award 2024,  
Sofia Murillo Sanchez



Graduate Role Model Award 2024,  
Samantha Mendez



Professional Role Model Award 2024,  
Dante E. Barragan

## 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, Corporate 2024,  
Gabriel Ruscalleda



STAR of Today, Govt. 2024,  
Jennifer Lopez Whitmer

## 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

## 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 November 1, 2025.

STAR of Tomorrow,  
Corporate 2024,  
Dr. Yenny Cubides



STAR of Tomorrow,  
Government 2024,  
Dr. Silvana Ovatt

STEM Warrior  
Award 2024,  
Angel Francisco  
Rodriguez



Young Investigator  
Award 2024,  
Jorge I. Poveda



## 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

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.



Rodrigo Garcia Founder's Award 2024,  
Adriana Ocampo Senior

### 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 2024,  
James Narey

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.

## 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.



Dr. Ellen Ochoa Award 2024,  
Lauren Ferlita Breitenbach



Rubén Hinojosa STEM Champion Award 2024,  
MESA

# 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 2024,  
Chevron (Jaime Carbajal)



Academic Institution of the Year 2024,  
Wichita State University

# Thank You to Our 2024-2025 INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL



# Thank You to Our 2024 ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

