# 2024 MIRA AWARDS ENTRY KIT

**AWARD ENTRY DEADLINE**
Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EDT (Midnight on Sunday before it turns to Monday) . This is the extended deadline from the originally published date.

**MIRA AWARDS GALA AT THE OLD NATIONAL CENTRE**
Friday, April 26, 2024

**INSIDE THIS ENTRY KIT**
This is your all-in-one guide for how to enter the state's top technology and innovation honors crossing all industries. From "at a glance" category overviews and frequently asked questions to the complete category and criteria descriptions plus the evaluation rubric, you'll find everything you need to prepare and submit an award-winning entry.

**ABOUT THE MIRA AWARDS**
The Mira Awards, now in its 25th year, is a six-month program that culminates with our signature ball gown and black tie gala that has come to be known as "Tech's Biggest Night" and the "Oscars for Tech" in Indiana. It's a tremendous platform for celebrating our state's tech successes, as well as coming together as a community, highlighting what's important to us and sharing our vision for the future.

**QUESTIONS AND CONTACTS**
If you have questions about entering the Mira Awards, including nominating someone else, applying for yourself or your company, filling out the forms and the evaluation process, please contact Joshua Hall at [joshua@techpoint.org](mailto:joshua@techpoint.org) or call 317-413-9354.

**REGISTER FOR THE "HOW TO ENTER THE MIRA AWARDS" WEBINAR**
On December 6th, TechPoint team member Joshua Hall conducted a webinar walking through the logistics of how to enter the awards using the SM Apply online form, along with some helpful tips and best practices for putting your best foot forward with the judges.

**[Watch a Recording of the "How to Enter the Mira Awards" Webinar.](#)**

**SPONSORSHIP**
For sponsorship information, please view the [2024 Mira Awards Sponsor Prospectus](#). It contains the details for each available sponsorship level for the

awards program and gala event being held at the Old National Centre on Friday, April 26, 2024.

If you are ready to become a sponsor, contact the [TechPoint Engagement Team](#).

**IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES FOR THE 2024 MIRA AWARDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, November 7, 2023 | Call for Entries, Nominations & Applications Open to the Public |
| Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 3-4 p.m. EDT | "How to Enter the Mira Awards" Live Webinar with TechPoint's Joshua Hall |
| Sunday, January 28, 2024 | All Entry Forms Due |
| Tuesday, February 20, 2024 | 2024 Mira Awards Nominee Announcement |
| Mid-March | Nominee Presentations/Interviews with Judging Panels (Interviews will be scheduled after February 20th nominee announcement.) |
| Friday, April 26, 2024 | The 25th Annual TechPoint Mira Awards Gala and Afterparty at the Old National Centre |

**VIDEO: WE RECOMMEND ADDING AN EXPLAINER VIDEO TO YOUR ENTRY**
Did you know you can submit a brief explainer video with your award entry? You can upload the video file itself using the attachments uploader tool in the online application, or you can upload your video to a video platform like YouTube or Vimeo and include a link to the video in your entry content.

All entrants are encouraged to provide a five (5) minutes maximum explainer video. Shorter is better. This could be as simple as a smartphone or Zoom recording of your CEO, product manager or other relevant leader explaining what you have accomplished and why it matters—your awards entry elevator pitch, if you will.

While this will not replace the primary essay on the written entry entirely, it may make it easier for you to get your point across to the judges. Regardless of whether

or not you provide an explainer video, you must still complete the written entry form.

Our best suggestion is to use the explainer video as your dynamic entry introduction to the judges, and then use the first essay question on the form—WHY DOES THIS ENTRY DESERVE A MIRA AWARD—as the top line highlights of the video spelling out your entry's key achievements and significance.

**GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Anyone may submit an award entry.
- There is no cost to nominate or enter.
- Self-nomination through the entry process is common and encouraged. (You don't have to be nominated by someone else, just go ahead and enter.)
- Individual entrants should work or live in the state of Indiana unless otherwise specified in the category description.
- Company entrants should either be headquartered in Indiana or at a minimum have a comprehensive set of business functions located in Indiana.
- Indiana employees should have been central to the business' accomplishments for the category in which the company is nominated. Only work done that includes Indiana-based employees will be considered for awards.
- Association with TechPoint is not required and membership/sponsorship has no impact on an award entry's chances of being named a nominee or winning.
- Should an entry appear to better qualify for a different category than originally submitted, Mira Award judges and TechPoint staff reserve the right to move the entry into the more suitable category.

**NOMINATION VS. AWARD ENTRY**
The public is encouraged to nominate deserving individuals, teams, organizations and companies using the simplified [Nomination Form](). Those nominated will receive notification and they must complete the official [Mira Awards Entry Form]() in order to be considered for an award.

Only those who complete the Entry Form will be considered for awards, except for certain partner award categories otherwise noted. All entries are evaluated by the judges and then the scoring determines which entries move forward as official Mira Award nominees.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPANIES HEADQUARTERED OUT-OF-STATE**
To qualify for company-related categories, a company must have a comprehensive set of business functions located in Indiana, and Indiana employees must have been central to the businesses accomplishments for the category in which the company is nominated..

For example, a company with only sales and marketing offices in Indiana would not qualify, but a company with product development, sales, marketing, and services likely would. Revenue and growth results should highlight the Indiana-relevant business unit results, not just the corporate whole.

To qualify for Product Innovation of the Year, Product Launch of the Year, Service Partner of the Year, the product, service, or innovation must have been primarily developed in Indiana or by Indiana-based employees of the company.

If you are unsure of whether or not you or your company is eligible for a Mira Award, focus on the spirit of the awards, which is to recognize the Best of Tech in Indiana. If the company doesn't have a significant presence in the state or the bulk of the work was done elsewhere by people with little or no connection to Indiana, then it doesn't qualify.

Contact Joshua Hall at [joshua@techpoint.org](mailto:joshua@techpoint.org) or call 317-413-9354 to discuss your specific eligibility questions.

**ENTRY PROCESS AND LIVE JUDGING PRESENTATION/INTERVIEW DATES**
Mira Award entries are reviewed and ranked by independent panels of company founders, CEO/presidents, CIOs, VPs and a variety of other subject matter experts. The rankings determine which applicants will be included in the 2024 class of Mira Award nominees.

Next, Mira Award nominees are required to deliver brief presentations and participate in interviews (20 minutes total) with the judging panel from their specific category in Mid-March, and should be prepared to answer questions and discuss their entry in further detail.

** We recommend making note of this presentation/interview date in your calendar immediately to avoid conflicts that may prevent you from being available to present.

**\*\* MARK YOUR CALENDAR: REQUIRED NOMINEE PRESENTATIONS/INTERVIEWS TAKE PLACE IN MID-MARCH. APPOINTMENTS WILL BE MADE FOLLOWING THE FEBRUARY  20, 2024 NOMINEE ANNOUNCEMENT.**

Because the volunteer judges are busy professionals themselves, it is impossible to reschedule missed presentation/interview appointments.

Mira Award nominees will be announced on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Mira Award winners will be announced during the Mira Awards Gala on Friday, April 26, 2024.

**PRO TIP:** The best way to think about your application is as a whole—not just individual questions—and that you are writing a compelling story for the judges to read. It should not be long. It should not be difficult for a subject matter expert in your field to understand. And the innovative, unique or most interesting thing about your achievement should be right in the beginning of the question "Why does this applicant deserve to win a Mira Award?"

**CONFIDENTIALITY**
TechPoint and the TechPoint Mira Awards judges agree to maintain the highest standards of confidentiality with respect to information that is not in the public domain regarding organizations, individuals, or technologies nominated for the TechPoint Mira Awards.

**QUESTIONS**
If you have any questions about the nomination form or process, please contact Joshua Hall at [joshua@techpoint.org](mailto:joshua@techpoint.org) or call 317-413-9354.

**2023 MIRA AWARDS CATEGORIES**
The first important step to entering is deciding which category or categories are the right ones for you. You may enter all categories for which you are eligible.

**TWO PRIMARY DIVISIONS**
1.  Talent & Pipeline Awards
2.  Digital Innovation Awards

**TALENT & PIPELINE AWARDS**

1.  Talent Impact Award (Organization or Company)
2.  Nextech K-12 Computer Science Teacher of The Year (Individual K-12)

3. Techpoint Foundation for Youth Bridge Builder Award (Individual)
4. Tech Innovation Team Of The Year (Team Or Small Group)
5. Student Entrepreneur of The Year (Individual)
6. Rising Entrepreneur Award (Individual)
7. Mission41k Exceptional Employer Award (company)
8. TechPoint Trailblazer Award (Individual)
9. TechPoint Resilience Award (Individual)

**DIGITAL INNOVATION AWARDS**

10. Digital Transformation Award (Company)
11. Tech Innovation of The Year (Company)
12. Conexus Manufacturing Innovation Award (Company)
13. Agrinovus HungerTech Challenge Award (Company or Team)
14. Deal of the Year (Company and Investor)
15. Community Impact Award (Organization)
16. Innovation Service Partner of The Year (Company)
17. Startup of the Year (Company)
18. Tech Company of the Year (Company)

# TALENT & PIPELINE AWARDS

## TALENT IMPACT AWARD
(Organization or Company)

Recognizes organizations and their programs or platforms that inspire and open doors for STEM talent, create economic opportunities and have a positive impact on talent pipeline development and the future workforce.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. Problem – Describe the problem or opportunity you are addressing. Include quantifiable data where available.
2. Solution – What did you develop that is new and innovative?
3. Scalability – How has it scaled over time? Include information like current participation rate and year-over-year growth where available.
4. Outcomes – What results have been achieved? Provide impact data such as diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging goals advancement where available.

5.  Sustainability – How is it being funded and is there a sustainability plan?

**Who should enter or who should you nominate?** *Employers; Universities, Schools and Training Academies; Nonprofits; and More*

Past Winner: Eleven Fifty Academy

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ➞ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Category Criteria** | **Strong** | **Average** | **Lacking** |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>1.  Problem – Describe the problem or opportunity you addressing. Include quantifiable data where available. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>2.  Solution – What did you develop that is new and innovative? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>3.  Scalability – How has it scaled over time? Include information like current participation rate and year-over-year growth where available. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>4.  Outcomes – What results have been achieved? Provide impact data such as diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging goals advancement where available. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>5.  Sustainability – How is it being funded and is there a sustainability plan? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# NEXTECH K-12 COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

(Individual K-12 Teacher)

Recognizes outstanding and high-achieving licensed computer science teachers who teach full CS courses at any public, charter, parochial or other school in the state of Indiana.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. List this teacher's significant achievements relevant to computer science education.
2. How do these achievements advance the education of students beyond the mere use of technology?
3. In what way or ways does this teacher inspire students to learn?
4. Describe their impact on student achievement.
5. List civic activity including advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging and/or creating opportunities for underrepresented individuals.

*This award includes a $1000 cash grant and the winner is chosen by Nextech.*

Past Winner: Maria Sellers of South Vermillion Community School Corporation

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ➝ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category Criteria | Strong | Average | Lacking |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 1. List this teacher's significant achievements relevant to computer science education. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 2. How do these achievements advance the education of students beyond the mere use of technology? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 3. In what way or ways does this teacher inspire students to learn? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 4. Describe their impact on student achievement. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 5. List civic activity including advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging and/or creating opportunities for underrepresented individuals. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# TECHPOINT FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH BRIDGE BUILDER AWARD
(Individual)

Recognizes visionary leaders helping underserved students in Indiana access experiential learning that inspires the pursuit of STEM careers.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. How has the nominee significantly advanced STEM education in Indiana and inspired students to excel in STEM fields?
2. In what innovative ways has the nominee promoted diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in STEM education and engaged underrepresented students?
3. Can you quantify the nominee's impact on students and the community, including achievements and opportunities for underrepresented individuals in STEM?
4. Share specific instances where the nominee inspired others to contribute to STEM education and how they've motivated students to learn in STEM.
5. How does the nominee collaborate to ensure the sustainability of STEM programs and initiatives, especially regarding civic activities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion?

*This award is chosen by the TechPoint Foundation for Youth board of directors.*

Past Winners: Captain Ryan Lynch of Republic Airways, Informatics Diversity-Enhanced Workforce (iDEW) at IUPUI, Dr. Carlotta Berry of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ➡ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category Criteria | Strong | Average | Lacking |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 1. How has the nominee significantly advanced STEM education in Indiana and inspired students to excel in STEM fields? | 20 | 10 | 0 |

| | 20 | 10 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>2. In what innovative ways has the nominee promoted diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in STEM education and engaged underrepresented students? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>3. Can you quantify the nominee's impact on students and the community, including achievements and opportunities for underrepresented individuals in STEM? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>4. Share specific instances where the nominee inspired others to contribute to STEM education and how they've motivated students to learn in STEM. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>5. How does the nominee collaborate to ensure the sustainability of STEM programs and initiatives, especially regarding civic activities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# TECH INNOVATION TEAM OF THE YEAR
(Team or Small Group)

Recognizes teams that achieved a significant milestone in cutting-edge technology development, tech discovery or R&D; product development, design or engineering; or other innovation advancements.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. Team – What inspired this innovation and what obstacles did the team overcome? Explain how the team was formed and list the members.
2. Problem – What is the market problem you are trying to solve? Include quantifiable data where available.
3. Solution – What product, service or technology did you develop that is new and innovative?

4. Development – What is the current state of development for this innovation and how is it being funded?
5. Outcomes – What are the ultimate goals for this innovation and what results have you achieved so far? Include any plans for further/future development.

**Who should enter?** *Employers; Universities and Other Higher-Education Research Institutions; Contract Manufacturers; and More*

Past Winner: Preventia

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ⟶ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Category Criteria** | **Strong** | **Average** | **Lacking** |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>1. Team – What inspired this innovation and what obstacles did the team overcome? Explain how the team was formed and list the members. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>2. Problem – What is the market problem you are trying to solve? Include quantifiable data where available. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>3. Solution – What product, service or technology did you develop that is new and innovative? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>4. Development – What is the current state of development for this innovation and how is it being funded? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>5. Outcomes – What are the ultimate goals for this innovation and what results have you achieved so far? Include any plans for further/future development. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

(Individual)

Recognizes exceptional student startup founders and/or operators of any age and experience who have started a company or launched a product or service and generated revenue.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. Spark – What inspired this business idea and how did you overcome obstacles? List members of the leadership team and how it was formed.
2. Problem – What is the market problem you are trying to solve? Include quantifiable data where available.
3. Solution – What product or service did you develop that is new and innovative?
4. Traction – What is the go-to-market strategy, market adoption and year-over-year growth? Include data for up to three years where available.
5. Development – What are your three- to five-year growth goals and what is your funding model?

**Who should enter?** *Students Enrolled in K-12 Schools or Students Enrolled at Universities or Other Higher Education Institutions and More*

Past Winners: High School Senior Kerry Ao

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ➝ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Category Criteria** | **Strong** | **Average** | **Lacking** |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>1. Spark – What inspired this business idea and how did you overcome obstacles? List members of the leadership team and how it was formed. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>2. Problem – What is the market problem you are trying to solve? Include quantifiable data where available. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>3. Solution – What product or service did you develop that is new and innovative? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) | 20 | 10 | 0 |

| | 100 | 50 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4.  Traction – What is the go-to-market strategy, market adoption and year-over-year growth? Include data for up to three years where available. | | | |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 5.  Development – What are your three- to five-year growth goals and what is your funding model? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# RISING ENTREPRENEUR AWARD
(Individual)

Recognizes exceptional startup founders and/or operators of any age and experience who have looked outside the box, started something new, and generated momentum.

Evaluation Criteria:
1.  Spark – What inspired this business idea and how did you overcome obstacles? List members of the leadership team and how it was formed.
2.  Problem – What is the market problem you are trying to solve? Include quantifiable data where available.
3.  Solution – What product or service did you develop that is new and innovative?
4.  Traction – What is the go-to-market strategy, market adoption and year-over-year growth? Include data for up to three years where available.
5.  Development – What are your three- to five-year growth goals and what is your funding model?

**Who should enter?** _Founders, Co-founders, Founding Engineers or Product Developers, Others Critical to the Startup Process and More_

Past Winners: Tactile Engineering CEO Dave Schleppenbach, Qualifi CEO and Co-founder Darrian Mikell, Malomo Co-founder and CEO Yaw Aning, Authenticx Founder Amy Brown

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High → 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category Criteria | Strong | Average | Lacking |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  1. Spark – What inspired this business idea and how did you overcome obstacles? List members of the leadership team and how it was formed. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  2. Problem – What is the market problem you are trying to solve? Include quantifiable data where available. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  3. Solution – What product or service did you develop that is new and innovative? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  4. Traction – What is the go-to-market strategy, market adoption and year-over-year growth? Include data for up to three years where available. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  5. Development – What are your three- to five-year growth goals and what is your funding model? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# MISSION41K EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYER AWARD
(Company)

Recognizes companies that are developing talent through skills-based hiring of STEM roles; advancing diversity, equity and inclusion; cultivating workplace culture; and making a positive impact in the community.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. Have you implemented internships, apprenticeships, total rewards or other forward-thinking talent pipeline activities? Please explain.
2. What steps have you taken to adopt skills-based talent management and hiring practices?
3. How have you developed and leveraged your Indiana-based workforce?

4. How does the company's culture enhance performance and help it to sustain a competitive advantage? Include quantifiable data where available.
5. In what ways have you advanced diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging and/or created opportunities for underrepresented individuals?

**Who should enter?** *All Tech and Tech-Enabled Employers with an Indiana Workforce that Practice Skills-Based Hiring*

Past Winners: Allegion, Qualifi, myCOI

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ➡ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Category Criteria** | **Strong** | **Average** | **Lacking** |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>1. Have you implemented internships, apprenticeships, total rewards or other forward-thinking talent pipeline activities? Please explain. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>2. What steps have you taken to adopt skills-based talent management and hiring practices? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>3. How have you developed and leveraged your Indiana-based workforce? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>4. How does the company's culture enhance performance and help it to sustain a competitive advantage? Include quantifiable data where available. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>5. In what ways have you advanced diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging and/or created opportunities for underrepresented individuals? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# TECHPOINT TRAILBLAZER AWARD
(Individual)

Recognizes inspiring and influential visionaries whose contributions have had lasting and significant impact on the state and its technology ecosystem. Trailblazers are innovative risk-takers whose achievements and bold leadership are catalysts for growth and success.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. Career achievement – what is his/her career progression in a tech or tech-enabled roles. If in entrepreneurship operating roles, what are the significant company creation and growth milestones, including at least one successful liquidity event?
2. Industry transformation – how has such individual led business practices or initiatives that have transformed the way those are operated and set new industry best practices or standards.
3. Community engagement – how has this individual worked with tech industry stakeholders in private, public and academic sectors towards common goals and serving as inspirations for positive change.
4. Economic impact – how has this individual demonstrated business and economic impact, and sustained leadership in nurturing the next generation of digital innovators.

*This award is chosen by the executive committee of the TechPoint board of directors.  Public nominations are accepted.*

Past Winners: Rupal Thanawala, Bill Oesterle, Justin Christian, Kristian Andersen


| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ⟶ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category Criteria | Strong | Average | Lacking |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>1. Career achievement – what is his/her career progression in a tech or tech-enabled roles. If in entrepreneurship operating roles, what are the significant company creation and growth milestones, including at least one successful liquidity event? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>2. Industry transformation – how has such individual led business practices or initiatives that have | 20 | 10 | 0 |

| | 20 | 10 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|
| transformed the way those are operated and set new industry best practices or standards. | | | |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  3. Community engagement – how has this individual worked with tech industry stakeholders in private, public and academic sectors towards common goals and serving as inspirations for positive change. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  4. Economic impact – how has this individual demonstrated business and economic impact, and sustained leadership in nurturing the next generation of digital innovators. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# TECHPOINT RESILIENCE AWARD
(Individual)

Recognizes the relentless spirit of those who have turned adversity into opportunities, inspiring others with stories of their journey to success and leadership within Indiana's tech and digital innovation communities.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. Describe journey/path to current career, list all relevant paid positions
2. Explain adversity, what obstacles did you overcome?
3. What resources did you choose/use to address such significant challenges?
4. How have you been uplifting others, particularly those who may have also overcome challenges in advancing towards fulfilling careers and economic prosperity.
5. What other community impact have you made and what are your continued community impact goals?

**Who should enter?** *Career changers, immigrants, people who may not have access to opportunities because of social or economic status or disability.*
*Those who have endured and overcome significant challenges and hardships. Examples: Overcoming the circumstances of poverty, discrimination, health challenges, traumatic childhood experiences, and other barriers.*

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High → 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Category Criteria** | **Strong** | **Average** | **Lacking** |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  1. Describe journey/path to current career, list all relevant paid positions | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  2. Explain adversity, what obstacles did you overcome? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  3. What resources did you choose/use to address such significant challenges? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  4. How have you been uplifting others, particularly those who may have also overcome challenges in advancing towards fulfilling careers and economic prosperity. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  5. What other community impact have you made and what are your continued community impact goals? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# DIGITAL INNOVATION AWARDS

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AWARD
(Company)

Recognizes teams from any industry that have demonstrated outstanding vision and innovation for driving digital adoption, and leveraging technology to revolutionize and elevate their operations and/or overall industry standards.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. What exactly was transformed and how was this achieved?
2. Describe the steps taken to shift from "the old way" to the new one.
3. Who executed this digital transformation? List the internal teams or individuals, service providers, partners, etc.
4. What impact did this digital transformation have on your business and how did you measure success.
5. How has this digital transformation set your company up for future success?

**Who should enter?** *Company/Client Partnerships; Corporate Teams from Life Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing, Logistics, Agribiosciences, Energy, Academia and More*

Past Winners: System Scale & Growth Heros Business Partnership

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ➡ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category Criteria | Strong | Average | Lacking |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 1. What exactly was transformed and how was this achieved? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 2. Describe the steps taken to shift from "the old way" to the new one. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 3. Who executed this digital transformation? List the internal teams or individuals, service providers, partners, etc. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 4. What impact did this digital transformation have on your business and how did you measure success. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 5. How has this digital transformation set your company up for future success? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# TECH INNOVATION OF THE YEAR
(Company)

Recognizes tech R&D efforts and other trailblazing discoveries that are on path to ground-breaking products that have significant impact potential to transform a product category or an entire industry.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. What problem/opportunity does this product solve for and how does it solve it?
2. What specifically about this product is innovative and represents disruption to and transformative opportunities for the product category and/or the industry it serves?
3. Who developed this product? List the internal teams or individuals, service providers, partners, etc.
4. Describe how this product was developed, such as your specific innovation approach, including a development timeline.
5. How has the product proven its market viability through customer discovery, strong pilots, paying customers or other market validation metrics? Explain. Paying customer is not required. Rather, we are looking for data to support market validation of the product's disruptive opportunity.

**Who should enter?** *Tech Companies, Startups, Individual Innovators, Government Agencies, Research Institutions and More*

Past Winners: SIMBA Chain, hc1 PGx Advisor, RxLightning, 3Oe Scientific

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High → 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category Criteria | Strong | Average | Lacking |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>1. What problem/opportunity does this product solve for and how does it solve it? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) | 20 | 10 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2. What specifically about this product is innovative and represents disruption to and transformative opportunities for the product category and/or the industry it serves? | | | |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 3. Who developed this product? List the internal teams or individuals, service providers, partners, etc. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 4. Describe how this product was developed, such as your specific innovation approach, including a development timeline. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 5. How has the product proven its market viability through customer discovery, strong pilots, paying customers or other market validation metrics? Explain. Paying customer is not required. Rather, we are looking for data to support market validation of the product's disruptive opportunity. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# CONEXUS MANUFACTURING INNOVATION AWARD
(Company)

Recognizes outstanding innovations in the development and application of hardware technology, particularly those that push the boundaries of what is possible in the world of advanced manufacturing.

Evaluation Criteria:

*Conexus Indiana will select finalists for this award from the 2023 Indiana Manufacturing Readiness Grant recipients.*

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# AGRINOVUS HUNGERTECH CHALLENGE
(Company or Team)

Recognizes the winner of HungerTech, a month-long technology challenge that tasks innovators with ideating and implementing tech solutions that connect people experiencing food insecurity to adequate and sustainable food sources.

Evaluation Criteria:

*This award includes a $25,000 cash grant and the winner is selected through a process including HungerTech Challenge sponsors and AgriNovus Indiana professional staff.*

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# DEAL OF THE YEAR
(Company and Investor)

Recognizes technology-related Indiana companies and/or their investors that have secured the most investment capital in a single round or effected a merger or acquisition transaction or public listing with the highest enterprise value.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. Describe company's current operational presence in Indiana
2. Which category is this transaction? Minority investment, M&A transaction that resulted in a change of control, or an initial or secondary listing on a public market stock exchange
3. If minority investment: what is the total investment round and who are the lead investor(s). Lead investors are typically the largest investor(s) in the round.
4. If M&A transaction: what is the total enterprise value?
5. If public market listing: what is company's enterprise value priced by the public market and the total amount raised through such public market listing?
6. Transaction close date
7. The largest investor in your company to date, including the most recent round, M&A and/or public market listing transaction you completed.

*This award is chosen by the executive committee of the TechPoint board of directors.  Public nominations are accepted.*

Past Winners: Solinftec

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ➡ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Category Criteria** | **Strong** | **Average** | **Lacking** |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>1. Describe company's current operational presence in Indiana | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>2. Which category is this transaction? Minority investment, M&A transaction that resulted in a change of control, or an initial or secondary listing on a public market stock exchange | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>3. If minority investment: what is the total investment round and who are the lead investor(s). Lead investors are typically the largest investor(s) in the round. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>4. If M&A transaction: what is the total enterprise value? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>5. If public market listing: what is company's enterprise value priced by the public market and the total amount raised through such public market listing? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>6. Transaction close date | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>7. The largest investor in your company to date, including the most recent round, M&A and/or public market listing transaction you completed. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

(Organization)

Recognizes the remarkable contributions of mission-driven organizations that have helped to pull our tech community forward—the impact makers of the year. These inspiring champions are creating a brighter, more equitable future for everyone.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. What community project or projects were completed or experienced a major milestone during calendar year 2023?
2. How did this effort advance Indiana's tech community?
3. What did you develop that is new and innovative?
4. How do you and/or this effort inspire others and drive the tech industry forward in Indiana?
5. How are you engaged with the community including advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging and/or creating opportunities for underrepresented individuals.

**Who should enter?** *Nonprofits, Social Enterprises, Government and Academic Initiatives and More*

Past Winners: Indy Women in Tech, The Startup Ladies, Open for Service

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ➞ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Category Criteria** | **Strong** | **Average** | **Lacking** |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>1. What community project or projects were completed or experienced a major milestone during calendar year 2023? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>2. How did this effort advance Indiana's tech community? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>3. What did you develop that is new and innovative? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>4. How do you and/or this effort inspire others and drive the tech industry forward in Indiana? | 20 | 10 | 0 |

| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 5. How are you engaged with the community including advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging and/or creating opportunities for underrepresented individuals. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# INNOVATION SERVICE PARTNER OF THE YEAR

(Company)

Recognizes professional services firms or internal corporate teams that are pioneering transformative technology solutions or providing other professional innovation services that demonstrate excellence, creativity, and impact for clients or the industry at large.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. What primary services are offered by this provider?
2. Describe recent significant achievement(s) and how success was measured.
3. In what ways is the service provided excellent, new, or innovative?
4. What impact has this provider had on company or client success?
5. How is this provider planning and preparing for the future?

**Who should enter?** *Professional Services Firms, Consultants, Custom Software Developers, Design Studios; and Internal Corporate Technology and Innovation Teams Within Corporations; and More*

Past Winners: Glassboard, LiftBridge CXO, PIER Group, Resultant (Formerly KSM Consulting)

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ⟶ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Category Criteria** | **Strong** | **Average** | **Lacking** |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 1. What primary services are offered by this provider? | 20 | 10 | 0 |

| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) | 20 | 10 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2. Describe recent significant achievement(s) and how success was measured. | | | |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| 3. In what ways is the service provided excellent, new, or innovative? | | | |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| 4. What impact has this provider had on company or client success? | | | |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| 5. How is this provider planning and preparing for the future? | | | |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# STARTUP OF THE YEAR

(Company)

Recognizes high-potential, high-growth companies that are five years old or younger and have shown the greatest development/progress and market traction, including significant year-over-year growth and a solid management team.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. Spark – What inspired this business idea and how did you overcome obstacles? List members of the leadership team and how it was formed.
2. Problem – What is the market problem you are trying to solve? Include quantifiable data where available.
3. Solution – What product or service did you develop that is new and innovative?
4. Traction – What is the go-to-market strategy, market adoption and year-over-year growth? Include data for up to three years where available.
5. Development – What are your three- to five-year growth goals and what is your funding model?

**Who should enter?** *Technology-driven Startups, Software Development Firms, SaaS Platform and Mobile Application Developers; Hardware and IoT Startups; Biotech and*

*Medtech Ventures; CleanTech and Sustainability Companies; AI and Machine Learning Innovators; Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Startups; and Tech-Enabled Services Providers*

Past Winners: Ixana, RxLightning, Malomo, Woven, Encamp

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ➝ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category Criteria | Strong | Average | Lacking |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  1. Spark – What inspired this business idea and how did you overcome obstacles? List members of the leadership team and how it was formed. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  2. Problem – What is the market problem you are trying to solve? Include quantifiable data where available. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  3. Solution – What product or service did you develop that is new and innovative? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  4. Traction – What is the go-to-market strategy, market adoption and year-over-year growth? Include data for up to three years where available. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20)<br>  5. Development – What are your three- to five-year growth goals and what is your funding model? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

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# TECH COMPANY OF THE YEAR
(Company)

Recognizes high-growth, innovation-driven companies older than five years that have attained a pinnacle of achievement within the tech industry. These path-cutting pioneers are showcases of extraordinary leadership and performance.

Evaluation Criteria:
1. Spark – What inspired this business idea and how did you overcome obstacles? List members of the leadership team and how it was formed.
2. Problem – What is the market problem you are trying to solve? Include quantifiable data where available.
3. Solution – What product or service did you develop that is new and innovative?
4. Traction – What is the go-to-market strategy, market adoption and year-over-year growth? Include data for up to three years where available.
5. Development – What are your three- to five-year growth goals and what is your funding model?
6. In what ways are you thinking big? How will the company reach a $1 billion valuation (or high-water mark for this particular company/industry)?

**Who should enter?** Established Technology Companies and Scale-up Companies

Past Winners: Zylo, Wunderkind, Market Wagon, Socio, Salesforce Marketing Cloud

| Evaluation Rubric | SLIDER 20 High ➔ 0 Low | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Category Criteria** | **Strong** | **Average** | **Lacking** |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 1. Spark – What inspired this business idea and how did you overcome obstacles? List members of the leadership team and how it was formed. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 2. Problem – What is the market problem you are trying to solve? Include quantifiable data where available. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 3. Solution – What product or service did you develop that is new and innovative? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 4. Traction – What is the go-to-market strategy, market adoption and year-over-year growth? Include data for up to three years where available. | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) <br> 5. Development – What are your three- to five-year growth goals and what is your funding model? | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Criteria Question (Total Points Possible = 20) | 20 | 10 | 0 |

| | 100 | 50 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6. In what ways are you thinking big? How will the company reach a $1 billion valuation (or high-water mark for this particular company/industry)? | | | |
| **TOTAL SCORE POSSIBLE 100** | **100** | **50** | **0** |

Last Updated January 11, 2024.