



**Thank you for taking the time to nominate a Woman or Company in STEMM for the
13th Annual STEMM Awards on October 29, 2026!**

The [nomination form](#) will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, depending on how much you write about your nominee. We suggest writing at least one paragraph for each question unless you need more to explain. Because the form cannot be saved as you go, we do recommend drafting your answers for the Questionnaire in a Word document and pasting each answer into the form fields before submitting.

To read more about the STEMM Awards, go to CXSTEMMys.com.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Be one of these: a female professional, student, educator, company, or community organization in a STEMM-related field. However, in the WiSTEMM Champion category, a male or female can be nominated.
- Must live and/or work in the Kansas City metropolitan area.
- Have not previously been honored as a WiSTEMM Champion or Enterprising Innovator.
- Previous honorees cannot win the same award twice. However, they can be nominated for an award at a level “above” their previous award (e.g., a Student Achiever may be nominated for a Rising Trendsetter). To see a list of past honorees, please [click here](#).
- Previous nominees who have not won an award may be nominated again.

ENTRY:

- Entry is a two-step process.
- To submit an individual or company for consideration: Complete the [nomination form](#). Self-nominations are acceptable and can be completed [using this form](#).
- After being nominated, nominees will be immediately emailed and asked to provide additional information to complete the nomination process (see the questions on the following pages). Nominees who do not complete their informational form will not continue in the judging process.
- Choose only one category to nominate a person for, as nominations in multiple categories will not be accepted.
- Only one nomination per person is necessary, as additional nominations carry no additional weight.
- Award winners will be chosen by a panel of judges based on their applications.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **The nomination deadline is June 6, 2026, at 11:59 PM.**
- Nominee additional information forms must be completed by June 18, 2026.
- Winners will be notified by the end of July.
- The **Benefactor’s Roundtable Discussion & Happy Hour** is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at the T-Mobile Campus. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets.
- The **Awards Ceremony and Luncheon** will take place on Thursday, October 29, 2026, at Fiorella’s Event Space. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets.

Questions? Please contact Kerry Gentry Hartnett at kerry@centralexchange.org.



Questions for Student Achiever Nominations

The **Student Achiever STEMM Award** honors a female college student currently enrolled at a Kansas or Missouri college or university with professional aspirations in a STEMM field. The student has demonstrated academic achievements, shows exemplary student involvement in campus/community organizations, and is a leader amongst her peers at her college or university. This award can be given to an undergrad or graduate degree student.

For the Nominator:

1. Briefly describe why you believe the nominee should be recognized as a WiSTEMM Student Achiever. Feel free to include accomplishments in their student/professional career, including academic achievements, as well as other areas of their life that wouldn't be included in any of the following questions.
2. Describe the nominee in 3 words.
3. How does this nominee champion Women in STEMM fields through their work and community engagement?

For the Nominee:

1. Tell us about some of your proudest accomplishments within your student/professional career and other areas of your life.
2. Brag about your Academic Achievements! Include any awards and recognitions you have received.
3. Describe how you stand out as a leader amongst your peers in supporting and nurturing women in STEMM fields, and why this is important to you. (Now really brag about yourself!)
4. How are you involved in student organizations at your college/university and in the STEMM community?
5. What professional aspirations do you have in your STEMM field?

Questions? Please contact Kerry Gentry Hartnett at kerry@centralexchange.org.

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Honorees are chosen through an independent review, with selections based entirely on the nominee's merits, achievements, and contributions to their organizations and local community. Memberships or partnerships with Central Exchange are not considered in the judging process.



Questions for WiSTEMM Educator Nominations

The **WiSTEMM Educator Award** honors a full-time STEM faculty member at any high school or college level. Based on student or fellow faculty evaluations and community accolades, her institution or community acknowledges her as an outstanding educator.

For the Nominator:

1. Briefly describe why you believe the nominee should be recognized as a WiSTEMM Educator. Feel free to include accomplishments in their career and other areas of their life that wouldn't be included in any of the following questions.
2. Describe the nominee in 3 words.
3. How does this nominee champion Women in STEM fields through their work and community engagement?

For the Nominee:

1. Tell us about some of your proudest accomplishments as an educator and other areas of your life.
2. Describe how you stand out amongst your peers in supporting and nurturing women in STEM education and why is this important to you. Yes, please brag about yourself!
3. How has your institution recognized you as an Excellent Educator based upon student or faculty assessments?
4. How are you engaged at your school and in the broader community in efforts that promote STEM, demonstrate social responsibility, and/or show how you invest in others?
5. How do you promote student involvement in STEM-related activities?

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Questions for Enterprising Innovator Nominations

The **Enterprising Innovator Award** honors a woman business owner at a STEMM-focused company who demonstrates outstanding leadership by setting a clear vision and achieving notable success. She also shows industry excellence by influencing others in her STEMM field and is regarded as a key contributor within her industry.

For the Nominator:

1. Please briefly explain why you think the nominee deserves recognition as an Enterprising Innovator. You are welcome to mention achievements in their career and other aspects of their life that may not be addressed in the subsequent questions.
2. Describe the nominee in 3 words.
3. How does this nominee champion Women in STEMM fields through their work and community engagement?

For the Nominee:

1. Share some of your proudest accomplishments in your career and other aspects of your life.
2. Tell us about your company/business/innovation in the areas of STEMM.
3. How do you exemplify industry excellence and demonstrate influence in your field?
4. Describe how you stand out as a leader amongst your peers in supporting and nurturing women in STEMM fields and why this is important to you. (Yes, please brag about yourself!)
5. How are you involved in STEMM activities that impact our community, drive positive economic trends, demonstrate social responsibility, and invest in employee culture?

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Questions for Corporate HERO Nominations:

The **Corporate HERO STEMM Award** honors a company, whether large or small, that promotes women in STEMM within their organization. This company actively participates in KC Metro STEMM-related activities and supports community organizations. It strongly supports women in STEMM fields and offers benefits and support through education, growth opportunities, flexibility, and camaraderie via initiatives such as ERGs.

For the Nominator:

1. Briefly describe why you believe the nominee should receive the Corporate HERO STEMM Award.
2. What ties to STEMM fields does this company have?
3. How does this nominee champion Women in STEMM fields through their work and community engagement?

For the Self-Nominator or Nominee:

1. Briefly describe why you believe your company should receive the Corporate HERO STEMM Award.
2. Please provide your company's mission and/or values statement.
3. What ties to STEMM fields does your company have?
4. Describe how your company actively engages in STEMM activities that impact the Kansas City community, demonstrate social responsibility, and recognize women in STEMM careers and leadership.
5. Explain how your company offers strong support and benefits for its female associates and invests in employee culture.

Questions? Please contact Kerry Gentry Hartnett at kerry@centralexchange.org.



Questions for WiSTEMM Community Spotlight:

The **WiSTEMM Community Spotlight Award** honors a nonprofit, professional organization, or community initiative that advances STEMM within our region. The awardee helps build a pipeline of STEMM talent in the community, promotes STEMM programs, and increases awareness of STEMM.

For the Nominator:

1. Briefly describe why you believe the nominee should receive the WiSTEMM Community Spotlight Award. Feel free to include program accomplishments and other awards received in the community.
2. What ties to STEMM fields does this organization or community initiative have?
3. How does this nominee champion Women in STEMM fields through their work and community engagement?

For the Nominee:

1. Briefly describe why you believe your organization or initiative should receive the WiSTEMM Community Spotlight Award.
2. Please provide your organization's mission and/or vision statement.
3. What ties to STEMM fields does your organization have?
4. Describe how your organization actively engages in STEMM activities that impact the Kansas City community, demonstrate social responsibility, and recognize women in STEMM careers and leadership.
5. Explain how your organization offers strong support and benefits for its female associates/members and invests in employee/member culture.

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Questions for Rising Trendsetter Nominations

The **Rising Trendsetter Award** honors a woman with **10 Years or Less of professional experience in her STEMM field** who has demonstrated significant achievement early in her career. She is a role model for women in STEMM, gaining peer recognition and support. She is an emerging leader among women in STEMM and participates in STEMM activities at her company and in her community.

For the Nominator:

1. Briefly describe why you believe the nominee should be recognized as a Rising Trendsetter. Feel free to include accomplishments in their career as well as other areas of their life that wouldn't be included in any of the following questions.
2. Describe the nominee in 3 words.
3. How does this nominee champion Women in STEMM fields through their work and community engagement?

For the Nominee:

1. Tell us about some of your proudest accomplishments in your career as well as other areas of your life.
2. Describe yourself in 3 words.
3. Please give examples of how you are an influencer and emerging leader for women in STEMM, how you show your peers recognition and support, and why this is important to you. (Yes, please brag about yourself!)
4. How do you exemplify industry excellence and demonstrate influence as a key contributor in your company or STEMM field?
5. How are you involved in STEMM activities that impact our community, drive positive economic trends, demonstrate social responsibility, and invest in employee culture?

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Questions for Groundbreaking Leadership Nominations

The **Groundbreaking Leadership Award** honors a woman in STEMM who has made significant contributions to the STEMM community throughout **her more than 10-year professional career in her field**. She advocates for women in STEMM by promoting gender equity in leadership roles, supporting women entering or advancing in STEMM careers, and celebrating their achievements. She is a comprehensive leader who casts a vision, sets and achieves goals, learns from other leaders, mentors others, influences peers, and drives innovation and change.

For the Nominator:

1. Briefly describe why you believe the nominee should be recognized as a Groundbreaking Leader. Feel free to include accomplishments in their career and other areas of their life that wouldn't be included in any of the following questions.
2. Describe the nominee in 3 words.
3. How does this nominee champion Women in STEMM fields through their work and community engagement?

For the Nominee:

1. Tell us about some of your proudest accomplishments in your career and other areas of your life.
2. Describe yourself in 3 words.
3. How are you known for industry excellence? Please give at least one example of how you are known for being an expert on a product/service/process, having a history of high-quality results/customer loyalty, and contributing to progress in your industry.
4. Describe how, as a 360-degree leader, you cast visions, set and achieve goals, learn from other leaders, mentor others, influence peers, and drive innovation and change.
5. How do you promote gender equality in leadership roles, support women entering or growing in STEMM careers, and how do you celebrate achievements by women in STEMM? Why is this important to you?

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Questions for WiSTEMM Champion Nominations:

The **WiSTEMM Champion Award** honors a leader, regardless of gender, who works in or is connected to a STEM field or organization. These individuals are bridge builders who imagine gender equality and actively work to achieve that goal. They advocate for women in STEM, empowering them to reach their full potential. They support women as they enter or advance in their STEM careers and actively promote them in their workplaces and communities. They are genuine champions for others.

For the Nominator:

1. Briefly describe why you believe the nominee should be recognized as the WiSTEMM Champion. Feel free to include accomplishments in their career and other areas of their life that wouldn't be included in any of the following questions.
2. Describe the nominee in 3 words.
3. How are they a Champion for Women in STEM? Specifically, how do they promote gender equality in leadership roles, support and nurture women entering or advancing in STEM careers, and celebrate women's achievements in STEM?

For the Nominee:

1. Tell us about some of your proudest accomplishments in your career and other areas of your life.
2. Describe yourself in 3 words.
3. Describe how you stand out as a leader amongst your peers in supporting and nurturing women in STEM fields, and why this is important to you. (Yes, please brag about yourself!)
4. How are you a champion of women in STEM? Specifically, how do you promote gender equality in leadership roles, support women entering or growing in STEM careers, and how do you celebrate achievements by women in STEM? (Now we really want you to brag!)
5. What else have you done throughout your career or in the community that makes you a WiSTEMM Champion that is not mentioned above?

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