



2026 Innovator of the Year Nomination Form

This award recognizes an NCEDA member for leadership on a unique and impactful state, regional, or local initiative addressing a specific economic development challenge or opportunity. Examples may include creative product development initiatives, workforce collaborations, talent attraction efforts, or innovative business retention and expansion programs with measurable economic impact.

Nominations may be submitted within three years of the innovation's launch to demonstrate success. Click [HERE](#) to view the previous award recipients.

CRITERIA

For this nomination to be considered, please carefully review and adhere to the guidelines below:

- Complete the full nomination form. Please limit responses to the space provided for each question and do not attach additional pages with expanded answers.
- You may include **up to three** supporting materials such as letters of recommendation, news articles, or other documentation that demonstrate the importance of the initiative to the local community, region or state.
- Submit a thoughtful, thorough, and professional nomination that clearly addresses the criteria and reflects the importance of the award.

SUBMISSION

Submit nominations electronically to liz@nceda.org by **5 pm, Friday, May 8**. Contact Liz with questions or if you do not receive confirmation (888.246.2332). The 2026 NCEDA Award recipients will be announced at the Annual Conference in June.

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

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1. Innovative Project or Initiative

Describe the project or initiative that was innovative for your community, region, or state. Highlight the challenges and opportunities addressed and explain how the nominee was instrumental in its success.

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2. Community, Regional, or State Impact

Explain how the project or initiative has contributed to improving quality of life, strengthening the business environment, and supporting economic vitality. Include measurable outcomes, relevant metrics, and tangible results achieved since implementation.

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3. Partnerships and Collaboration

List any other organizations, government entities, or stakeholders that played a key role in the project or initiative. Describe their contributions, responsibilities, and level of involvement in achieving success.

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4. Additional Comments

Share any other information, insights, or a brief statement/quote explaining why the nominee is deserving of this award.