LEADERSHIP SERIES

Emerging Leaders Award

First Quarter

EXTENDED DEADLINE NOMINATION FORM

** Nomination investment will be returned if your candidate is not selected.*

The Emerging Leaders Award aims to honor professionals who embody excellence, integrity, and innovation, regardless of their age or position within the organization. By highlighting these rising leaders, we are committed to showcasing varied perspectives of leadership that drives organizations forward and advocating for greater recognition of emerging talent. We are offering the Emerging Leaders Award every quarter. Take advantage of the ability to recognize these individuals as they develop into becoming the leaders of tomorrow.

Why This Award is Unique and Prestigious

- This award specifically recognizes the contributions and leadership of professionals who are early in their leadership journey within organizations.
- Recognizes individuals for their professional achievements and their ability to positively influence their work environment and colleagues through their personal qualities and actions.
- Winners will be honored with a full-page profile in the current quarterly issue of *Profiles in Leadership Journal*, providing significant visibility and recognition.

DEADLINE for Nominations:
February 20, 2026

PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP JOURNAL™
Since 1999

Questions? Contact James Rector, *Publisher*
Email: publisher@leadershipjournal.com **Office:** 440-892-0444 **Mobile:** 440-662-9770
Profiles in Leadership Journal: *Gemini Towers #1 • 1991 Crocker Road, #600 • Cleveland, OH 44145 • www.leadershipjournal.com*

EMERGINGNOMQ126

PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP JOURNAL™ 2026 EMERGING LEADERS AWARD

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Complete Your Nomination in 4 Steps

1. **Provide important nomination information on pages 3 & 4 of this document.**

   Nominations will be reviewed and judged based on the brief bio you provide that must include some or all of the following criteria:

   - **Exemplary Personal Commitment:** Nominees must have a track record of demonstrating exceptional personal commitment and drive for excellence in their roles.
   - **Positive Influence and Charisma:** Nominees should have a positive influence on their colleagues and work environment, showcasing their charisma and ability to uplift others.
   - **Innovation and Impact:** Nominees should demonstrate innovative thinking and have made a significant impact on their organization or community.
   - **Empathy and Integrity:** Nominees should exhibit empathy and integrity, fostering a supportive and inclusive workplace.

2. **Complete the Nomination Processing Investment online**
   There is a $495 processing investment per nomination which must be received by the nomination deadline. If your nominee is not selected, your nomination investment will be refunded. You can pay online here: https://buy.stripe.com/4gw2aYbtp5BF3TOcMX

3. **Upload* Your Completed Nomination document** by February 20, 2026 at https://leadershipjournal.com/el-q1-nomination-upload/

   * Nomination forms must be submitted/uploaded via *PLJ*'s secure online portal. Email submissions will not be accepted!

4. **Recognize Your Leaders with Confidence**
   We understand that today's communications require care and consideration. That's why *Profiles in Leadership Journal* offers all nominating organizations the opportunity to review and approve their award winner's profile prior to publication.

   Your organization remains in full control of how your leadership is portrayed — we're your partner in celebrating excellence, not a source of concern.

It's that Easy

If your nominee should be selected as an Emerging Leader award recipient, we will notify both your successful nominee and the person who nominated him or her. We'll also send each nominee a Question & Answer packet. He or she will be asked to answer a few general questions, write an optional brief essay, and provide two high-resolution photographs, as well as a digital version of your organization's logo. Each nominee's photograph, optional essay, and professional information will appear on a dedicated full page in our Q1 issue. Just complete the Nomination area on pages 3 and 4. Links for upload and payment are above and on page 5.

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*(Please fill in all form fields and **be sure to save this file** when completed)*

Before You Begin

As part of our collaborative process, your organization will have the chance to review and approve the final profile of your award winner before publication. This ensures alignment with your internal messaging and gives your team full confidence to nominate with peace of mind.

A. Nominee Information

Nominee's Name: ☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. _____
(as it should appear in print and please check prefix that applies)

Job Title: _____

Organization Name: _____

Full Corporate Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Contact info for Nominee's
Administrative Assistant: _____

B. Nominated by:

Note: The nominator must be the primary point of contact for all editorial communications. Using a company executive as the nominator will not increase a nominee's chances of selection. He or she will be evaluated on merit alone. Please ensure that the person whose information is entered below is available to manage all communications related to the nomination and award process.

Nominator's Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Organization Name: _____

Corporate Mailing Address: _____

Office Phone Number: _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Secondary Contact Name & Email: _____

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C. Tell Us Why You Chose this Nominee

Briefly explain why your nominee should be recognized as a 2026 Emerging Leader awardee: (200 words max.)

Provide a brief bio that highlights your nominee's personal commitment and drive for excellence in their roles. Describe one of the following: How they positively influence their colleagues and work environment. 2) How they demonstrate innovative thinking and make a significant impact on your organization or community. 3) Or their exhibitions of empathy and integrity, fostering a supportive and caring workplace. (300-400 words max.)

D. Final Profile Approval

Please confirm your preference regarding the final profile approval process:

☐ **Yes,** we would like to review and approve the final profile before publication.
☐ **No**, we trust the editorial process and do not require a final review.

Note: If "Yes" is selected, publication will not proceed without organizational approval.

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E. Nomination Processing

NOMINATION INVESTMENT: $495:

After uploading your Nomination form, please be sure to go to our secure payment portal where you can submit your entry investment payment. If your nominee is not selected, *PLJ* will refund your nomination investment.

Please upload this document (do not email) at: https://leadershipjournal.com/el-q1-nomination-upload/

Submit $495 nomination investment at: https://buy.stripe.com/4gw2aYbtp5BF3TOcMX

If you need an invoice for payment please email James Rector: publisher@leadershipjournal.com

Submitted nomination and investment must be received by February 20, 2026.

Emailed submissions will not be accepted!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Will our organization have the opportunity to review the award winner's profile before publication?**
   Yes. We offer every nominating organization the chance to review and approve the final profile of their award winner before publication. We understand the importance of alignment with internal communications and public messaging. Your team remains in full control of what is shared publicly.

2. **Will the nomination investment be refunded if our candidate is not selected?**
   Your nomination investment will be returned in full if your candidate is not selected.

3. **Can my organization nominate more than one Emerging Leader for 2026?**
   Yes. Each organization may nominate up to four (4) candidates for this award.

4. **How will my organization be notified of our nominee's acceptance?**
   Confirmation that your organization's nominee has been accepted will be sent to the nominator and the award winner along with the Question & Answer Form.

5. **Why is the Emerging Leaders Award being offered quarterly?**
   We want to give organizations the ability to recognize their new leaders all year.

6. **Is purchasing an advertisement in the first quarter 2026 issue of *PLJ* required if our nominee is accepted?**
   No advertising purchase is required.

7. **Will we be able to order printable PDFs of our nominee's profile layout?**
   Yes. If you wish to **receive a FREE PDF** of your nominee's layout from the Q1 magazine, please email a request to stevetoth@leadershipjournal.com after the issue has been launched.

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