

# 2026 STEAM LEADERSHIP AWARD

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



Award page layout samples

## Recognizing Outstanding People Driving Innovation and Leadership

The **STEAM Leadership Award** recognizes **women and men** who exemplify exceptional talent and leadership in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). Nominated by their employers or colleagues, these trailblazers are visionary, confident, and forward-thinking leaders who drive innovation and create lasting value within their organizations and industries. Beyond being high performers, these individuals are purpose-driven change-makers who inspire others—mentoring the next generation, challenging conventional ideas, and contributing to a better world for all.

Since its inception, *Profiles in Leadership Journal*™ has acknowledged thousands of outstanding individuals from around the globe who are making a significant impact in their organizations and communities. The STEAM Leadership Award aims to showcase and celebrate today's leading STEAM professionals while also highlighting the organizations that encourage, empower, and support their success. Through this nomination process, we honor extraordinary individuals in STEAM and the organizations that champion their achievements.

Honorees will be featured in the Q2 2026 issue with a **full-page profile**. This prestigious recognition enhances the visibility and reputation of both the recipients and the companies that support their advancement.

**Deadline for Nominations:  
 April 17, 2026**

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## Complete Your Nomination in 4 Simple 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, which should include contributions and achievements in at least 3 of the following 5 areas:

- Leadership
- Executive Responsibility
- Professional Achievement
- Innovation
- Mentorship

*Note: No self-nominations will be accepted.*

**2. Complete the Nomination Processing Form on Page 5**

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.*

**3. Upload\* Your Completed Nomination Form by April 17, 2026**  
at <https://leadershipjournal.com/steam-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 is selected as a 2026 STEAM Leadership award winner, we will notify your successful nominee, and the individual who nominated them. We'll also send your nominee a Question & Answer Form. They will be asked to answer a few questions, write a brief essay on a topic of their choosing, and provide two high-resolution photographs, as well as a digital version of your organization's logo. Their photograph, essay, and professional information will appear on a dedicated full page in our Q2 issue. Just complete the Nomination form on pages 3 and 4. Then upload this completed PDF and submit your entry payment. Links for upload and payment are on page 5.

**Deadline for Nominations:**  
**April 17, 2026**



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

## C. Tell Us Why You Chose this Nominee

Briefly explain why your nominee should be recognized as a 2026 STEAM Leadership award winner: (100-200 words max.)

Provide a brief bio that highlights your nominee's professional accomplishments, including examples of at least 3 of the following 5: Executive Responsibility; Leadership; Professional Achievement; Innovation; Mentorship (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 your organization's 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 payment. If your nominee is not selected, *PLJ* will refund your nomination investment.



Please upload this document at: *(do not email)*  
<https://leadershipjournal.com/steam-nomination-upload/>



Submit \$495 application payment at:  
<https://buy.stripe.com/fZu00cfs3dFXbxQajM0Jq0g>

If you need an invoice for payment, please email  
James Rector: [publisher@leadershipjournal.com](mailto:publisher@leadershipjournal.com)

Submitted nomination and fee must be received by **April 17, 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?**  
Yes.
- 3. Is my organization allowed to nominate a candidate who has been named a *Leadership Journal* award winner in the past?**  
Yes. Your nominees may include a candidate or candidates who have previously won any *Profiles in Leadership Journal* 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. We will also be sending your nominee a Question & Answer Form to fill out and upload, along with a high resolution photo and corporate logo.
- 5. Will my organization have an opportunity to review each nominee's profile as it will appear in the Q2 2026 issue of the magazine?**  
Yes. If you have any edits or changes that you would like to make to your page(s) after the magazine is posted online, please email [stevetoth@leadershipjournal.com](mailto:stevetoth@leadershipjournal.com).
- 6. Is purchasing an advertisement in the Q2 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. Please email [stevetoth@leadershipjournal.com](mailto:stevetoth@leadershipjournal.com) after the magazine issue comes out, and he will send you your PDF files **free of charge**.

# HERE IS A SAMPLE OF A PAST AWARD WINNER PROFILE PAGE.

**NOTE:** The new **STEAM Leadership Award** is available to both **women and men**.



**Company Name:** Knobbe Martens  
**Industry:** Legal  
**Company CEO:** Steven Nataupsky  
**Company Headquarters Location:** Irvine, CA  
**Your Location:** San Diego, CA

## Knobbe Martens

### Kimberly J. Miller, Ph.D., Partner

**Education:** JD, University of San Diego; PhD, UC Los Angeles; BA, Gustavus Adolphus College

**Words you live by:** Even when it is hard to be nice, try to be

**Personal Philosophy?** Live life being straight-forward

**What book are you reading?** *Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

**What was your first job?** Waitress

**Favorite charity:** Helen Woodward Animal Center

**Interests/Hobbies:** Pilates, Hiit workouts, trying new restaurants, arts & crafts

**Family:** One husband, two busy teenage boys and four dogs (yes, four!)



#### What barriers do you see to closing the gender gap in STEAM?

Significant gender gaps persist. Women continue to earn less and progress more slowly than their male counterparts. Without identifying and addressing the root causes of these inequities, meaningful progress will remain out of reach.

Equitable compensation must be a top priority-rooted in merit, contribution, and transparency. Companies must prioritize equitable compensation based on merit and contribution, while also acknowledging the role implicit bias can play in performance evaluations. A critical examination of internal evaluation and promotion processes is essential, as these systems often unintentionally reinforce existing disparities.

Mentorship and coaching are also vital. Offering structured, inclusive programs for both men and women can help foster professional growth and bridge opportunity gaps. Organizations that regularly assess the effectiveness of these initiatives-and are willing to adapt-can create more supportive environments for all employees.

#### What can be done to move women forward in STEAM?

Mentorship and coaching are essential for supporting and advancing women in STEAM. Importantly, a great mentor doesn't have to be a woman. In fact, some of the most impactful mentors in my own journey have been men. What truly makes a mentor effective is their ability to see and understand you as a whole person and then to offer guidance that's rooted in both their knowledge and their understanding of your unique strengths, goals, and challenges.

Equally important is the willingness to be coached. As our careers evolve, we encounter new expectations and situations that often require us to draw on skills we may not yet have mastered. Being open to coaching allows us to grow into those areas, even when it's uncomfortable. Whether it's developing leadership presence, navigating organizational dynamics, or learning to advocate for ourselves, being coachable is a key part of success.

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**Questions?** Contact James Rector, *Publisher*

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