

STEP AHEAD

2027 AWARDS

Nominations Guide

Nominate

Nomination Period

Monday, August 3–
Friday, October 2, 2026

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STEP Ahead is a national program led by the Manufacturing Institute (the 501(c)3 nonprofit workforce development and education affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers) to recognize and develop exceptional leaders in manufacturing—from the shop floor to the C-suite. These leaders serve as living proof of what a manufacturing career can become. By celebrating their stories, STEP Ahead helps reshape perceptions of the industry, showcases the array of talent that powers it and builds a stronger future for manufacturing.

The program features three interconnected components

AWARDS AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Honoring 145 exceptional leaders each year for their contributions to manufacturing and their communities. These awardees inspire the next generation and showcase the breadth of talent powering the industry. Ahead of the awards gala, awardees take part in a leadership conference with tailored workshops and peer networking.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

Connecting leaders across manufacturing with mentors and mentees to foster growth, confidence and career advancement.

ALUMNI COMMUNITY

A network of past awardees who remain engaged, share expertise and gain ongoing leadership development.

Together, these elements create a powerful program that recognizes excellence and equips participants to inspire others, strengthen workplace cultures and advance the manufacturing workforce of the future.

Why STEP Ahead Exists

Manufacturers are facing a growing skills gap. STEP Ahead helps address this by shining a spotlight on the leaders who are building strong teams and setting high standards of excellence across the industry. By celebrating role models and inspiring participants to pay it forward, STEP Ahead helps manufacturers:

- Strengthen retention of key talent;
- Show future workers what success in manufacturing looks like;
- Build a network of leaders who shape strong, collaborative work environments; and
- Reinforce the value of peer support, mentorship and leadership at every level.

About the STEP Ahead Awards

The STEP Ahead Awards honor exceptional individuals in manufacturing to lead by example and strengthen their workplaces. Each year, nearly 1,000 nominations are submitted from across the country. From this highly competitive pool, just 100 Honorees, 30 Emerging Leaders and up to 15 Champions are recognized as standout leaders making a lasting impact.

Award recipients are invited to participate in the STEP Ahead Leadership Conference before being celebrated at the STEP Ahead Awards Gala alongside peers, family and colleagues. They also join a powerful network of more than 1,800 STEP Ahead alumni—leaders who are committed to paying it forward and inspiring the next generation.

Key Dates

- **Nominations Open:** Aug. 3, 2026
- **Nominations Close:** Oct. 2, 2026
- **Nominators Notified:** Early December 2026
- **Awardees Notified:** Early January 2027
- **Award Acceptance Deadline:** Jan. 29, 2027
- **Public Announcement:** March 8, 2027
- **Leadership Conference and Awards Gala:** April 14–15, 2027



Award Categories

There are three award categories nominators may consider:

HONOREE

Established professionals who have made significant, sustained impact in their organization and across their community. One hundred individuals will be recognized as Honorees.

EMERGING LEADER

Rising professionals who are already making an impact in the manufacturing industry. Whether early in their careers or newly transitioned into the industry, nominees typically have fewer than 10 years of experience in the manufacturing industry. They stand out for their leadership, fresh perspective and strong potential to shape the future of the industry. Thirty individuals will be recognized as Emerging Leaders.

CHAMPION

Individuals who demonstrate allyship in action. Champions actively support others by fostering supportive cultures, opening doors and modeling leadership that ensures all talent can thrive. Champions are typically senior leaders and are known for their commitment to mentorship, advocacy and building strong teams across the organization. Up to 15 individuals will be recognized as Champions.

Nominee Eligibility

Nominees must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Currently employed in the manufacturing industry.
- Work for a company with a U.S.-based manufacturing presence.
- Nominated by a colleague, supervisor or industry peer (self-nominations are not accepted).
- Companies may submit up to 12 nominations across the three categories (10 across the Honoree and Emerging Leader categories and up to two in the Champion category); an internal vetting process is encouraged.

We recommend companies coordinate internally to ensure nominations are vetted and prioritized before submission.

Nominee Criteria

HONOREE AND EMERGING LEADER

Nominees in both categories will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- **Industry Impact:** Contributions that have driven innovation, performance, operational excellence or organizational success.
- **Leadership and Influence:** A visible leader or emerging changemaker who fosters collaboration and drives meaningful progress.
- **Mentorship and Talent Development:** Actively supports the growth of others through mentoring, coaching or talent advocacy.
- **Culture Driver:** Models behavior that strengthens organizational culture.
- **Community Engagement:** Civic involvement and outreach beyond the workplace that enhances the broader community.

Note for Emerging Leader Nominees: Nominees typically have fewer than 10 years of experience in the manufacturing industry and may have entered the sector through career transition or as early-career professionals.

CHAMPION

Nominees will be evaluated on the following:

- **Visible Allyship:** A proactive commitment supporting others working in manufacturing. This can include mentoring and sponsoring growth opportunities.
- **Track Record of Impact:** Proven history of fostering supportive workplace culture and driving meaningful change within their organization or the broader industry.
- **Support for Advancement:** Leads or shapes programs, policies or practices that enable others to thrive.
- **Community Engagement:** Civic involvement and outreach beyond the workplace that enhances the broader community.

The Nomination Process

The Nomination Process

Submitting a nomination involves three key steps. Please read the instructions carefully before beginning your application.

STEP 1: CREATE A NOMINATOR ACCOUNT

All nominators must create an account to access and submit the nomination form.

Visit the [STEP Ahead Nominations portal](#) and follow the prompts to enter your information and create your nominator account.

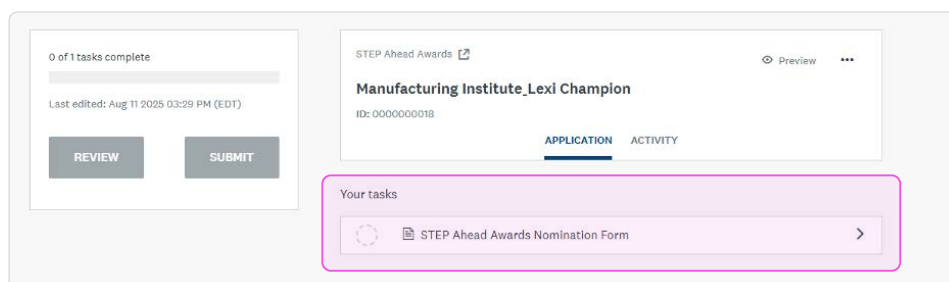
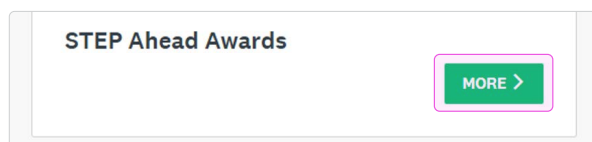
Note: Each company may submit up to 12 total nominations: up to 10 across the Honoree and Emerging Leader categories combined, and up to 2 in the Champion category. We recommend having a single point of contact to coordinate and manage nominations.

If you're unsure whether your company already has a main point of contact, please email the STEP Ahead team at STEPAhead@nam.org.

STEP 2: START A NEW NOMINATION

Once your account is set up:

1. Navigate to **Programs** and select **More** under **STEP Ahead Awards**.
2. Review the overview page to familiarize yourself with the award information.
3. Click the green **Apply** button in the upper-right corner to begin your nomination.
4. Name your nomination using the suggested framework of **Company Name_Nominee Name**.
5. Click into your first task, **STEP Ahead Awards** Nomination Form.



6. Select the award category for your nominee: **Honoree, Emerging Leader** or **Champion**.
7. Complete the nomination form with nominee information and contact details, then click **Mark as Complete**.
8. Answer the four essay questions (**250-word maximum per question**). These responses are the most important part of the evaluation—be thoughtful and specific.

Back to application

STEP Ahead Awards
Manufacturing Institute, Lexi Champion
ID: 0000000016

✓ STEP Ahead Awards

Essay Questions - Honoree

1 of 2 tasks complete

Essay Questions - Honoree

0%

***ESSAY**

The STEP Ahead Awards honor exceptional individuals who are making a difference in the manufacturing industry and their communities.

The following essay questions are designed to help the judges understand your nominee's impact, leadership and contributions. Strong responses will include specific examples, measurable outcomes where possible and a clear connection to the award criteria. Each essay entry can be up to 250 words in length and the cumulative scores of these essays will be used to determine the 2026 STEP Ahead awardees.

STEP 3: SUBMIT AND REPEAT

Once all sections are complete and reviewed, click **SUBMIT**. Please note that once a nomination is submitted, no changes can be made. You will receive a confirmation email upon successful submission.

To submit another nomination, click **View more Programs** and repeat the process.

Back to application

STEP Ahead Awards
Manufacturing Institute, Lexi Champion
ID: 0000000016

✓ STEP Ahead Awards

✓ Essay Questions - Honoree

2 of 2 tasks complete

Last edited: Aug 11 2025 03:25 PM (EDT)

REVIEW

SUBMIT

Essay Questions - Honoree
Completed Aug 11 2025 03:25 PM (EDT)

***ESSAY**

The STEP Ahead Awards honor exceptional individuals who are making a difference in the manufacturing industry and their communities.

The following essay questions are designed to help the judges understand your nominee's impact, leadership and contributions. Strong responses will include specific examples, measurable outcomes where possible and a clear connection to the award criteria. Each essay entry can be up to 250 words in length and the cumulative scores of these essays will be used to determine the 2026 STEP Ahead awardees.

This is your opportunity to tell the nominee's story - what sets them apart and why their work matters to your company, the nominee's community and the manufacturing industry.

***Essay Question 1:** Describe a significant accomplishment or contribution the nominee has made within their organization.

What did they do, how did they do it any way was it impactful? This can include technical achievements, business results, innovation or operational excellence.

✓

Application Submitted!

Thank you for submitting your application.

Go to My Applications

OR

View more Programs

Review and Selection

All submissions will be reviewed and scored by former STEP Ahead Award recipients, bringing firsthand insight into the qualities and achievements that define exceptional leaders in manufacturing.

Nominations will be evaluated against the award criteria, with judges assessing demonstrated impact, leadership, mentorship, contributions to workplace culture and community engagement.

The review process is designed to ensure fairness and consistency. Each nomination is independently and blindly scored by multiple judges, and final selections are made based on cumulative scores.

Only complete nominations submitted by the stated deadline will be considered.

Award Notification and Participation

Companies will receive notification of the status of each nominee in early December 2026.

Award recipients will be notified in early January 2027 and will receive detailed information about the STEP Ahead Leadership Conference and Awards, taking place April 14–15, 2027, in Washington, D.C.

Participation in both the Leadership Conference and Awards is highly encouraged, as these events are integral to the STEP Ahead experience and provide valuable opportunities for recognition, professional development and networking.

The 2027 STEP Ahead awardees will be announced publicly on Monday, **March 8, 2027**.

Frequently Asked Questions

Nomination Process

WHEN DO NOMINATIONS OPEN AND CLOSE?

Nominations open on Monday, Aug. 3, 2026, and close on Friday, Oct. 2, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

HOW DO I NOMINATE SOMEONE?

You can submit a nomination through the platform SurveyMonkey Apply, which streamlines the nomination process. When nominations open, you will receive a link to the portal along with step-by-step instructions. Once your account is created, you can select an award category, complete the nomination form and submit by the deadline. There is no cost associated with submitting a nomination.

WHO CAN SUBMIT A NOMINATION?

Nominees must be nominated by a colleague, supervisor or peer. Self-nominations and nominations submitted by outside firms are not accepted. Companies are encouraged to designate a single point of contact to coordinate nominations.

CAN I NOMINATE SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE OF MY ORGANIZATION?

Yes. If your nominee is selected, we will contact their employer to confirm eligibility and participation before announcing their selection.

CAN A COMPANY NOMINATE SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.?

A company may nominate an employee working internationally only if that company has U.S.-based operations. The nominee must contribute meaningfully to the U.S. manufacturing workforce or company culture.

IS THERE A COST TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION?

There is no cost to submit a nomination. However, if your nominee is selected, their employer is expected to support their participation in the Leadership Conference and Awards Gala in Washington, D.C.

IS THERE A LIMIT TO HOW MANY NOMINATIONS A COMPANY CAN SUBMIT?

Yes. Each company may submit up to 12 nominations: up to 10 across the Honoree and Emerging Leader categories combined and up to two in the Champion category. Only one Honoree, one Emerging Leader and one Champion per company can be selected.

Eligibility

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE NOMINATED FOR A STEP AHEAD AWARD?

Any individual working in the manufacturing industry may be eligible, depending on the award category. Full eligibility criteria are outlined in the nomination portal and this guide.

ARE AWARD CATEGORIES LIMITED TO A SPECIFIC GENDER?

No. The eligibility criteria for all three categories—Honoree, Emerging Leader and Champion—are open to all genders. STEP Ahead is committed to recognizing the full breadth of talent and leadership driving the manufacturing industry forward.

CAN SOMEONE BE NOMINATED AGAIN IF THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY NOMINATED BUT NOT SELECTED?

Yes. Individuals nominated in previous years who did not receive an award may be nominated again.

CAN A PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENT BE NOMINATED AGAIN?

It depends. Individuals cannot receive the same award more than once. For example, past Emerging Leaders cannot be renominated in that category but may be nominated for Honoree or Champion.

HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS WILL BE HONORED IN 2027?

- 100 Honorees
- 30 Emerging Leaders
- Up to 15 Champions



Application Strength & Selection

WHAT DOES A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION LOOK LIKE?

Strong applications highlight specific achievements, measurable results and demonstrated leadership impact. Sample essay responses for each category are included in this guide.

WHO REVIEWS THE NOMINATIONS?

A committee of past award recipients anonymously reviews nominations based on the award criteria and each nominee's demonstrated impact.

WHEN WILL AWARD RECIPIENTS BE ANNOUNCED?

Nominators will be notified in early December 2026. Selected awardees will be notified in early January 2027, with a public announcement in March 2027.

Post-Selection & Event Participation

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY NOMINEE IS SELECTED?

If selected, your awardee will be invited to participate in the STEP Ahead Leadership Conference and Awards Gala in Washington, D.C., April 14–15, 2027, and welcomed into the STEP Ahead alumni community.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF AWARD RECIPIENTS?

Award recipients are encouraged to engage in mentorship, outreach and leadership development through STEP Ahead programming.

IS TRAVEL REQUIRED?

Yes. Selected awardees are expected to attend the Leadership Conference and Awards Gala in Washington, D.C., April 14-15, 2027. Employers are encouraged to support participation.

HOW CAN MY COMPANY SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE?

Companies can become event sponsors to help underwrite the Leadership Conference and Awards Gala while demonstrating commitment to recognizing and developing manufacturing talent. Sponsorship opportunities include:

- Table reservations (each table seats up to 10 guests);
- Brand visibility during the event;
- Recognition in event materials and signage; and
- Opportunities to highlight your company's leaders and awardees.

To learn more, contact MI Vice President of Partnerships and Philanthropy Rachael Scheffler at RScheffler@nam.org. Sponsorship packages are limited—early interest is encouraged.

HOW CAN INDIVIDUALS PURCHASE TICKETS FOR THE STEP AHEAD AWARDS GALA?

There are three options to attend the STEP Ahead Awards Gala:

- A limited number of individual tickets will be available for purchase. Details will be shared closer to the event date.
- Companies can secure tables (10 seats per table) through event sponsorship. Contact RScheffler@nam.org for more information.
- Honorees, Emerging Leaders and Champions each receive a complimentary ticket, plus access to discounted guest tickets for immediate family members (limit three). Details will be shared with awardees upon selection.

STEP Ahead Alumni Community

WHAT IS THE STEP AHEAD ALUMNI COMMUNITY?

The STEP Ahead Alumni Community is a network of past award recipients committed to paying it forward. Through ongoing events, networking and professional development programs, alumni stay connected, share best practices and collaborate to strengthen the manufacturing workforce.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE STEP AHEAD ALUMNI COMMUNITY?

All past awardees recognized through STEP Ahead or Women MAKE Awards are automatically welcomed into this nationwide network—including Emerging Leaders, Honorees and Champions from any award year.

IF I AM A FORMER WOMEN MAKE AMERICA AWARDEE, AM I STILL INCLUDED IN THE STEP AHEAD ALUMNI NETWORK?

Yes. Women MAKE America was the name for STEP Ahead from 2022 to 2025. If you received an award during that time, you are a STEP Ahead alum and remain a valued part of the community.

Need Help?

I HAVE A QUESTION THAT'S NOT LISTED HERE. WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Reach out to the STEP Ahead Team at STEPAhead@nam.org or (202) 637-3426.

Sample Essays

Sample Essays—Honoree Candidate

Note: Individual and company names have been changed or anonymized.

Describe a significant accomplishment or contribution the nominee has made within their organization.

JULIA oversees COMPANY's largest, most complex and highly integrated production site, managing 30 production units that generate over 4,000 unique products. These materials supply 23 downstream plants globally and contribute to 80% of the business's revenue. In her role as site leader, JULIA has built a diverse and high-performing team, advancing STATE operations' competitiveness by challenging existing practices, enhancing industrial park efficiency and leveraging internal expertise. The site has recently achieved its best safety and reliability performance, fostering downstream growth and ensuring a consistent supply to customers. Additionally, JULIA oversees COMPANY's other northern sites in the U.S. and Canada, providing continuous support in crisis management and resources. Previously, as site director and global EHS director, she spearheaded an improvement program for ethylene oxide that significantly improved worker health, process safety and emissions reduction—while also revamping the Community Advisory Panel to build trust and find wins for both the company and the community.

How has the nominee demonstrated leadership by shaping a strong workplace culture and supporting the growth of others?

Since beginning her career as an engineer in 2004, JULIA has been an active member of professional networks focused on recruiting and retaining diverse talent. As her career progressed, she has pulled other leaders up behind her and diversified her own leadership team, recognizing the business value of varied perspectives. She has participated in corporate programs promoting diverse talent and has helped retain several leaders by developing flexible solutions for challenging personal situations. Recently, JULIA invited Ernst & Young to co-host a session for over 100 leaders and allies at her site—an event that inspired many participants to return to their roles determined to make a difference.

JULIA is also a visible advocate for working parents. She has shared her own experience navigating parenting while working in manufacturing and traveling for work, and actively ensures her teams are aware of company resources available to them. Her candor and leadership style drive the culture change needed to advance the value of inclusion and belonging.

How does your nominee engage with the broader community?

Outside of work, JULIA serves as the vice president and co-founder of NONPROFIT, an organization dedicated to educating the community about pancreatic cancer, supporting those affected and improving survival rates. This cause became personal after her father was diagnosed and passed away at 52. Over eight years, NONPROFIT has raised more than \$80,000 for research and awareness. JULIA currently serves on the executive steering team of NONPROFIT, with a goal of \$1.25 million this year, and has hosted fundraisers to support the local campaign. She also participates in annual volunteer events, including environmental cleanup initiatives, has partnered with the local minor league baseball team on emergency preparedness and exemplifies her company's commitment to community engagement.

Why should this individual be selected as an Honoree?

JULIA should be recognized as an Honoree for her remarkable career at COMPANY, her commitment to developing others and her record of leading through complexity while building high-performing teams. She has held manufacturing roles at seven sites, in five states and two countries—consistently sought out for the most challenging assignments. JULIA lives the company's values and brings out the best in those around her.

At the same time, JULIA is a beacon of personal achievement—demonstrating that leadership excellence and a full life outside of work are not in conflict. Her ability to thrive in both is a testament to her resilience and determination. Honoring JULIA recognizes her significant contributions and inspires the next generation to envision what leadership in manufacturing can look like.

Sample Essays—Emerging Leader Candidate

Note: Individual and company names have been changed or anonymized.

Describe a significant accomplishment or contribution the nominee has made within their organization.

In her relatively short tenure (five years), ASHLEY has made significant contributions to COMPANY. She led the implementation of a new product in AREA OF BUSINESS within a three-month timeframe, across three locations without any issues in manufacturing. This product is now being produced at 9 million pounds per year for an important customer.

ASHLEY also led a quality improvement effort at COMPANY's STATE plant, applying her Six Sigma Green Belt skills to lead a multifunctional team that improved usable product output from 60% to 100% prime material—resolving a challenge that had required ongoing development for 10 years. In a prior role, she led a reactor recommissioning project that increased annual capacity by 10%, including design improvements that enhanced safety and operability.

How has the nominee demonstrated leadership by shaping a strong workplace culture and supporting the growth of others?

ASHLEY invests in identifying, mentoring and growing the next generation of talent. She routinely mentors engineers in COMPANY's Developing Engineers program—her own entry point to the company—currently supporting four engineers across different manufacturing locations. She helps them navigate early-career challenges, brainstorms project ideas and connects them with colleagues. She also provides technical mentoring on manufacturing troubleshooting and quality improvement.

As site champion for an employee resource group, ASHLEY organizes engagement and growth initiatives, including a career panel discussion that drew strong attendance and positive feedback. She also engages the next generation at her alma mater, where she established a connection between COMPANY and the university's Women in Engineering group, supports an annual scholarship program and serves as a co-lead recruiter.

How does your nominee engage with the broader community?

ASHLEY has demonstrated ongoing commitment to her local community. She has supported Habitat for Humanity's annual Women's Build over the past year and a half, contributing to the construction of affordable housing. She has also volunteered at a local nonprofit providing community resources regardless of means.

In her role as local chapter leader of an employee resource group, ASHLEY organized a supply drive for a local women's shelter—collecting food, feminine products, cleaning supplies and seasonal clothing. She also volunteers with COMPANY's Science Teacher program, providing resources and mentorship to local elementary school teachers.

Why should this individual be selected as an Emerging Leader?

ASHLEY is a proven leader and mentor who exemplifies what the Emerging Leader award recognizes. In a short tenure, she has delivered significant, measurable impact across multiple manufacturing locations. She has demonstrated the ability to lead diverse teams with a maturity well beyond her years of service.

Beyond her professional achievements, ASHLEY shows deep commitment to developing others—recruiting, mentoring and building community in the industry she has chosen. She is an outstanding role model who will inspire future generations to consider a career in manufacturing.

Sample Essays – Champion Candidate

Note: Individual and company names have been changed or anonymized.

How does the nominee demonstrate visible allyship in their workplace?

JEFF consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to developing others and fostering inclusive leadership at COMPANY. His active sponsorship has paved the way for two individuals who later became presidents at different North American manufacturing companies—a testament to the lasting impact of intentional allyship. As a mentor and sponsor, JEFF goes beyond encouragement: he creates opportunities. A prime example is his sponsorship of INDIVIDUAL, whom he supported through strategic cross-functional assignments and advocated for a rotation to an international location—providing global exposure that shaped her career trajectory. He participates in employee resource group events and manufacturing leadership forums and is outspoken about the need for sponsorship at the senior level.

What specific actions has the nominee taken to create a more positive and supportive culture?

JEFF possesses an extraordinary talent for identifying untapped potential and empowering people to exceed their own expectations. Through stretch assignments and cross-functional opportunities, he creates conditions that challenge individuals to step beyond what they thought possible. His mentorship is ongoing—he reserves regular time for on-the-job development, making himself accessible as situations arise and providing guidance in the moment rather than in the abstract.

What distinguishes JEFF's approach is its intentionality. He does not wait for formal programs to drive change—he builds the conditions for it. His commitment extends beyond career advancement: he fosters environments where talent is recognized and equipped to lead.

How does the nominee engage with their broader community?

JEFF is a passionate advocate for community engagement and workforce development. He serves as a board member of NONPROFIT and encourages senior leaders across the organization to expand their own influence through external initiatives and board service. He has also identified valuable external networks and programs—such as UNIVERSITY CENTER—that provide emerging leaders with access to high-level professional development.

A standout contribution in JEFF's career is his support of a female executive in developing a workforce program with a local university. That program, now a benchmark across COMPANY, bridges academia and industry to equip students with skills for modern manufacturing. JEFF also speaks at universities and recruits new talent to the field.

Why should this individual be selected as a Champion?

JEFF exemplifies what it means to be a Champion: someone who leads visible, sustained efforts to shift workplace culture, open doors and build lasting systems of support. His influence spans leadership pipelines, organizational culture and community partnerships in ways that will outlast his tenure.

Throughout his career, JEFF has modeled proactive allyship—identifying and developing high-potential individuals, advocating for their advancement when they are not in the room and creating conditions for talent to thrive. What makes his approach distinctive is its intentionality: he does not rely on formal programs to drive change; he builds the conditions for it to emerge naturally.

Beyond his own organization, JEFF champions leadership excellence across the industry—from helping launch a workforce program with a local university, to speaking at national forums, to recruiting the next generation. He demonstrates that allyship in manufacturing is not about checking a box; it is about transforming a culture. That is the legacy he is building and why he is so deserving of recognition as a Champion.

Meet the Team



CAROLYN LEE

President

Carolyn is the president of the MI. Named to this role in 2017, she leads the MI in its goal of building a resilient manufacturing workforce prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the future.



LEXI CHAMPION

National Director, STEP Ahead

Lexi is the national director of STEP Ahead, leading strategy and execution of programs that support leaders across the manufacturing industry, including leadership development, mentorship and the annual STEP Ahead Awards.



SABRINA ZARIFI

Senior Manager, STEP Ahead

Sabrina is the senior manager of STEP Ahead, overseeing mentorship programs and alumni engagement. She designs and delivers programs that foster leadership development, build meaningful connections and amplify the impact of leaders across manufacturing.



KATIE HARKER

Senior Manager, Operations

Katie is the senior manager of operations, working collaboratively with program leads to execute events and build internal systems that support the entire MI team.



IRYNA TIASKO

Events and Special Projects Associate

Iryna supports the MI's flagship events and webinars, drives continual process improvement and supports cross-functional projects within the MI.

NOMINATION PERIOD

August 3–October 2, 2026

[Nominate](#)