

2027 Professional Recognition Awards Program

How to Prepare a Winning Submission

September 16, 2026





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2027 EXCLUSIVE
AWARDS SPONSOR



Awards Team



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Key Dates



September 14, 2026

★ *Program Opens*

October 29, 2026

★ *Program Closes*

February 2027

★ *Winners Notified*

June 6-9, 2027

★ *Recognition at*



Conference & Expo
2027 | ORLANDO

Entry Fee



MEMBERS

\$0.00!

NON-MEMBERS

Not Eligible

Why Submit?



Why Submit?



1. **Industry Recognition:** Gain visibility and credibility from peers, partners, and stakeholders.

- Award recipients will be recognized on stage at the 2027 IPMI Conference & Expo in Orlando
- They will also be recognized in the July/August/September issue of *Parking & Mobility*



Why Submit?



2. **Showcase Innovation:** Highlight your team's creativity, leadership, and forward-thinking solutions.
3. **Boost Team Morale:** Celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of your staff, collaborators, and clients.
4. **Strengthen Reputation:** Build trust and authority with clients, customers, community members, and decision-makers.
5. **Attract Talent and Partnerships:** Awards help position your organization as an industry leader.

Awards Entry Platform



Every project, leader, and organization has a story.
Tell us yours.



HOMEWHY ENTER?AWARDS OF EXCELLENCEPROFESSIONAL RECOGNITIONIPMI WEBSITEMY ACCOUNT

Login to Complete an Application or to Access Judging Panel

Email Address *

Password *

☐ remember me [lost password?](#)

Login

Don't have an account yet? [Create a user login.](#)

IPMI's annual awards and recognition programs celebrate individuals and organizations in the parking, transportation, and mobility industry. Winners in the Awards of Excellence and Professional Recognition Awards programs exemplify industry excellence.

Questions? Email awards@parking-mobility.org

Logging In: Please note that your login for the awards site is different than your login for the IPMI site. If you have never created an account for our awards, you will have to do that before you can enter a submission

Click on the red navigation bar above to access criteria, categories, and more.

Click the hyperlinked text below to start your entry. When you click these links, you will be prompted to create a login or register for a new login.

Program Name	Opens	Closes
Awards of Excellence	September 14, 2026	October 29, 2026
Professional Recognition Awards	September 14, 2026	October 29, 2026

The 2027 IPMI Awards are brought to you with our heartfelt thanks to Walter P Moore for their exclusive program sponsorship. Click the banner below to learn more about them.

Awards Entry Platform

[Parking & Mobility Magazine](#) | [Forum Online Community](#) | [Login to Member Database](#) | [Conference & Expo 2026](#) | [eLearning Login](#) | [Subscribe to IPMI's E-Newsletter](#)



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[Volunteer](#)

Professional Recognition Awards

**Overview and Best
Practices**



Professional Recognition



Eligibility

Nominated individuals and organizations must be IPMI members in good standing.

Categories

- Industry Professional of the Year
- Organization of the Year
- Emerging Leader of the Year
- Professional Excellence Awards in multiple categories:
 - *Customer Service*
 - *Finance*
 - *Human Resources*
 - *IT*
 - *Innovation*
 - *Leadership*
 - *Marketing*
 - *And more!*

Professional Recognition

Tools



IPM PARKING & MOBILITY	
Page: Primary Contact Information: Owner/Operator/Agency	
Entry Category: * Download the Awards of Excellence Eligibility and Criteria for reference throughout your submission. ☐ Emerging Leader of the Year ☐ Professional Excellence Award ☐ Organization of the Year ☐ Facility Design: Surface Parking ☐ Industry Professional of the Year	
Member Eligibility: The nominee must be an IPM member in good standing. Questions about a nominee's membership status? Contact awards@parking-mobility.org	
Nominator: Please provide your contact information in this section. The Nominee section for contact information will follow. Please note that the nominator does not need to be an IPM member.	
Salutation* (This is a dropdown field with eight choices)	
First Name*	
Last Name*	
Certifications* Include PECP, PTMP, AIA, PE, and similar that should be used in official correspondence.	
Job Title*	
Organization*	
Email *	
Phone *	
Nominee Please provide nominee information. Please note that the nominee must be an IPM member in good standing. If the nominee is an individual, they must be a listed member for their organization under their organization's membership profile.	
Salutation* (This is a dropdown field with eight choices)	
First Name*	
Last Name*	
Job Title*	
Email *	
Phone *	
Organization: *	
Address: *	
Line 2:	
City: *	
State: *	

IPM PARKING & MOBILITY	
Zip: *	
Country Code: *	
Industry Segment* Select the most appropriate organization type for the nominated organization or the employing organization for the nominated individual. ☐ Airport ☐ Academic/University ☐ Architecture, Engineering, Construction ☐ City/Municipality ☐ Commercial Operator ☐ Hospital/Healthcare ☐ Planning/Consulting ☐ Service Provider/Supplier ☐ Transit/Transportation ☐ Other	
If other, provide additional detail here:	
Click "Save & Next" to continue to the second page of the entry form where you will be required to provide additional entry information.	
Page: Category Criteria	
Professional Recognition Award Criteria Download the Awards of Excellence Eligibility and Criteria for reference throughout your submission.	
Professional Excellence Awards recognize excellence for all staff, from the front-line to management. Awards recognize outstanding performance in a specific area of expertise. Requirements Excellence Category Selection: Customer Service, Finance, Frontline, Human Resources, Innovation Leadership, Marketing, Management, Operations, Technology, or select your own specific area of expertise! Narrative demonstrating the following achievements according to criteria. Each section is limited to 250 words, for a total of 1,250 words: • Summary: Describe the nominee and role within the organization. (20%) • Community and Industry Contributions: Describe nominee's contribution to the parking, transportation, and mobility industry. (20%) • Organization Culture, Leadership, and Staffing: Describe the nominee's professional reputation and relationship with staff, patrons, and colleagues. (20%) • Strategic Planning and Technology Application: Demonstrate the nominee's application of creative solutions, innovation, and best practices. (20%) • Examples of Nominee's Specific Expertise: Provide at least three specific examples of the nominee's professional contributions related to the category selected. (20%)	

Professional Recognition

Submission Guide TOC

- About the Professional Recognition Awards
- Award Categories (Summary)
- Evaluations and Judging
- Recognition and Benefits
- Entry Requirements and Criteria by Category (Detailed)
- FAQs



Professional Recognition

Best Practices

- ✓ Confirm that **the nominee is a member of IPMI**
- ✓ **Obtain nominee's approval** to submit them for an award
- ✓ **Review your contact information** carefully
- ✓ Nominate **only one organization or person** per award entry
- ✓ Enter the nominee's name **exactly how it should be printed** on the award
- ✓ **Tell us about the nominee**, not just their achievements
- ✓ Comply with **upload requirements** for supporting documentation
- ✓ **Leave enough time** to obtain the required letters of recommendation



Professional Recognition

Best Practices



2026 IPMI Professional Recognition Awards

Meet the nine exceptional winners of the 2026 Professional Recognition Award.

By Dorothy J. Verdon, CPSM



Professional Recognition



Frequently Asked Questions

1. If my entry is the only one in a category, will I win by default?
2. Can I resubmit a previous entry?
3. Are there eligibility requirements for Emerging Leader of the Year or Industry Professional of the Year nominees?
4. Can I submit two people from my organization for the same award?
5. Could there be more than one person or organization awarded in each category?

Awards Prep Resource



(Click [HERE](#) to access the article)

THE BUSINESS OF PARKING
Marketing & Business Development



Award Programs

The Art and Science of Winning

By Dorothy Verdon, CPSM

ALMOST EVERY PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OR ASSOCIATION has an awards program, either recognizing individual achievements or showcasing outstanding projects or initiatives. IPMI has both: the *Awards of Excellence* and *Professional Recognition Awards*. These programs share many similarities with those of other organizations, in that submissions require form-based text and visual content and are judged by industry peers. With IPMI's Awards of Excellence program call for submissions on the horizon, this article provides helpful tips on how to impress a jury, earn a high score, and win an Apex or Honorable Mention Award.

The best thing about winning an award is the validation you get from a jury of your peers who recognize the value of a plan, a design, a program, or a product and its successful implementation. That kind of third-party endorsement affirms what your team already believes: You've done something excellent. A survey I conducted about professional award programs revealed that recognition among clients and peers was the top reason for submitting; external publicity was second, credibility was third, and boosting employee and team morale was fourth.

Planning and Strategic Decision Making
Some projects are destined to grab a jury's attention immediately and win multiple awards. But even piles of dirt can win if you tell a good story and illustrate it effectively! Case in point: an engineering client approached me about submitting a clean soil stockpile project in Brooklyn to the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) New York. At first, I was skeptical. However, through research, interviews, and new drone photography, I became convinced of the story's strength. After careful category selection, the project earned a 2024 ACEC New York Gold Award.

It takes time to prepare a viable entry to most consequential award programs, so think about what the ROI will be before jumping in. Will a win reinforce your company's or organization's reputation in a specific market or project type, and does it align with your business goals or mission? Resist a scattershot approach

and submit selectively, using go/no go criteria such as budget, level of effort, odds of winning, target audience, and internal and/or external value. Also, assess your project's "winnability" quotient. Be honest and rigorous in evaluating how your entry compares to past winners in the same category. Most associations archive previous winners online—study those to benchmark your entry.

Giving Judges What They Crave
Assuming all systems are "go"—and for consultants, this means that you have obtained permission from the project owner to proceed—you are now ready to start filling in the submission form. IPMI's has over 60 possible fields for text content alone, and the several key fields requiring the most detailed information are tailored to the different entry categories.

IPMI's jury is composed of approximately 20 volunteers from member organizations across the parking and mobility spectrum. Faced with several dozen entries and the need to cull them, their first pass is when your entry will be eliminated if it is technically unresponsive due to missing information, an inadequate narrative or presentation of facts, or images that are substandard or do not support the narrative.

I recently asked judges and staff from professional organizations, including IPMI, for their feedback on several key questions about the award program. Their answers, summarized below, offer valuable tips on how to submit a winning entry in the 2026 Awards of Excellence program.

1. What are the most common mistakes you have found that submitters make with their entries?
Failing to carefully read and follow instructions, not directly addressing the specific questions and criteria, and providing incomplete or vague responses were the most significant flaws. Strong entries are clearly aligned with judging criteria, well-written, and detailed. Think like a judge: make it easy for them to find and evaluate your information. One IPMI judge noted, "The devil is in the details, and wordsmithing is critical to putting your best foot forward."

2. Which sections of the entry form seem to give submitters the most trouble responding to adequately?
The media section is challenging for some applicants. Photos, can convey the scope and uniqueness of a project more vividly than mere words. Overall, judges noted that it's not just one section that trips up applicants, but rather a combination of incomplete or missing information across the submission that can weaken its effectiveness.

3. What do each year's winners seem to have in common?
Winners clearly described how their project or program integrated seamlessly with their operations and was thoughtfully designed with the end user in mind. Winning entries stand out for their innovation, energy, and ability to clearly demonstrate impact. These submissions are complete, engaging, and visually dynamic, featuring compelling narratives, striking visuals, and metrics that illustrate how data was utilized in the project decision-making process and applied to achieve objectives.

4. What is the best advice you can give submitters?

- Be responsive to judging criteria and don't be afraid to state why you think the project deserves an award.
- Answer every question thoroughly. Don't skip required details, especially numbers or specifics, and avoid repeating the same points.
- Write concisely, but don't forget to tell the story. Jurors want to know what business decision inspired the program or project, what obstacles you overcame and how, who was involved, how it was implemented, and what benefits your organization or client derived from the overall effort. If your entry is a unicorn that sets new standards for the parking and mobility industry, please state so and provide supporting evidence.
- Describe how you innovated and were resourceful with the planning, design, or construction process.
- Use high-quality photos and videos to elevate the submission.
- Enlist objective third parties to review and provide feedback about your entry before submission.

You're a Winner, Now What?
Milk it for all it's worth! Attend the awards ceremony, invite your clients and teammates, announce it on social media and your website, issue a news release, and hold an in-house celebration, because, like designing a project or program, submitting one for an award is always a team effort.

Parting Thoughts
A successful award submission isn't just about checking boxes. It's about crafting a compelling, evidence-based story that resonates with a jury and aligns with the goals of the award program. By approaching the process strategically and presenting your best work, you will significantly increase your chances of being recognized as one of the best in the parking and mobility industry. ♦



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The background of the slide is a dense field of 3D question marks. Most are dark blue and out of focus, while one in the lower right is light blue and in sharp focus.

Questions?

Thank you for joining us today!