

2018 Greater Austin Business Awards

Categories & Criteria

Any size company may nominate for these awards, please submit in one or more category under the appropriate employee category. Small 1-49; Medium 50-349; Large 350+. Limited word count to answer each question. A company may not nominate in a category they previously won in 2017.

THREE AWARDS PER CATEGORY (S, M, L)

1. COMMUNITY RELATIONS
2. CUSTOMER SERVICE
3. EMPLOYEE WELLNESS
4. COMPANY CULTURE
5. INNOVATION
6. EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

7. ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION

ONE AWARD PER CATEGORY:

8. INTERNATIONAL REACH
9. FIRST-TIME ENTREPRENEUR
10. NON-PROFIT
11. MOST UNIQUELY AUSTIN

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Any organization in any industry that demonstrates a successful approach to corporate social responsibility and can show a positive impact on the community.

1. Describe any contributions (monetary contributions, in-kind goods and services, staff hours worked) toward community philanthropy.
2. How do you encourage employees to become involved with and support their local community?
3. What strategy do you have in place for ongoing development of community-focused activities?

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Any organization in any industry dedicated to outstanding customer service and satisfaction in all aspects of sales and services.

1. Describe the customer service policies and how they are linked to training and staff rewards for customer service?
2. How does your company evaluate customer feedback and complaints, and how do you anticipate future customer desires and marketplace potential?
3. How does your organization successfully recover from defects, service errors and mistakes?

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

Any organization in any industry that creates a culture of employee wellness and provides innovative programs for employee health safety and wellness.

1. Explain the organization's commitment to motivate and assist employees to practice healthier lifestyles.
2. What specific wellness programs does your company offer?
3. What does your organization have in place to evaluate the program quality and outcomes?

COMPANY CULTURE

Any organization in any industry that fosters a creative, collaborative workplace culture to enhance performance and sustain a competitive advantage. Demonstrates a sustainable culture with proven employee retention rates.

1. Describe the sustainable company culture.
2. Show a track record of employee retention rates and employee opportunities for growth advancement.
3. Explain how employees are engaged to develop successful cultural practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION

Any organization in any industry that invests in sustainability throughout its business operations through partnership-based projects, volunteerism, conservation, leadership, construction, community- outreach or innovative efforts.

1. Give an example of how your company's focus has positively impacted the environment. Nominations can focus on:
 - a) What clean energy policy initiative has your company developed that is directly or indirectly helping to promote energy efficient practices, recycling, or reducing carbon emissions?
 - b) What clean technology product or program has your company developed and how is it helping with energy efficiency, energy conservation, reducing landfill waste, or natural resource conservation?
 - c) Give an example of green design implementation with new or adaptive reuse of buildings or products promoting a positive ecological footprint.

INNOVATION

Any organization in any industry that employs new ideas or approaches to doing business or new technology innovation.

1. What measurable benefit has it (your company, technology, service) provided?
2. Explain any new efficiency, productivity and performance because of the innovation.
3. What traction have you made to date with market validation? (e.g. users, paying customers, lab/trial data)?

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

The Executive Leadership Award recognizes the local top executive for devoting time and energy to strengthen and transform the organization that they lead or guided to a new level of growth. Nominees for this award must demonstrate the ability to:

1. Who are you nominating? How do they inspire others?
2. What is their vision and a path to leading it to a higher level of success?
3. How do they encourage innovation and risk-taking among employees?

Any size company may nominate for the following categories. One award will be recognized in each category.

INTERNATIONAL REACH

Any organization (Austin-based or not) in any industry that has demonstrated growth in international business and has increased or maintained employment in the Austin Region through the expansion of international activity.

1. Briefly describe your company's main products or services that are exported to foreign markets.
2. Describe your company's international presence that furthers the economy in Austin.
3. How many jobs in your company (in the Austin Region) are supported by doing business internationally?
4. Add any other details you think will be helpful.

NON-PROFIT

Section 501(c) (3) public charity or private foundation that is tirelessly focused on serving the community and the partnerships they have built with for-profit organizations

1. What are your client service metrics and how do you maintain the right balance between overhead and client service costs?
2. How do you maximize the volunteer network of your partner organization?
3. Please describe an innovative partnership program that helped you achieve greater success.

FIRST TIME ENTREPRENEUR

Any individual who launches a business as a first-time entrepreneur and currently a leader in that company. The company should prove some level of success by having active customers but doesn't have to be profitable.

Nominees for this award should:

1. Explain the product or service, market opportunity and user.
2. Describe the company's vision and plan for growth.
3. Explain how you have generated revenue for your company.

MOST UNIQUELY AUSTIN

A company that embraces the unique Austin culture and exemplifies what it means to live and do business in Austin

1. How has your company demonstrated commitment and dedication to business in Austin?
2. In what ways, do you feel your company's products/services embrace the local Austin culture?
3. In your own words, describe what makes your company "uniquely Austin."