

RISING STAR AWARD

Fillable Application Form

Award Description: Recognizes an emerging professional with exceptional growth trajectory, leadership potential, initiative, professional commitment, and meaningful early-career impact.

Conference Connection: This form uses the SMPS SERC 2027 Make Waves theme to highlight rising talent who bring new ideas, growing influence, and future-focused outcomes to the A/E/C profession.

Eligibility

- Business development, communications, graphics, or marketing professional with under 3 years of AEC experience.
- Demonstrates innovative, creative strategies, and leadership potential throughout 2025-2026 with measurable contributions to firm or organization success.
- Active SMPS member in a regional chapter.
- Eligible SMPS chapter affiliation.

Eligible regional chapters include Alabama, Atlanta, Charlotte, Central Florida, Nashville, North Florida, Palmetto, Research Triangle, South Florida, Tampa Bay, and Virginia.

Submittal Requirements

- Two letters of recommendation demonstrating accomplishments outside the candidate's normal scope of work that are worthy of distinction.
- One letter must be from a supervisor.
- One letter must be from a member of an eligible SMPS chapter: Alabama, Atlanta, Charlotte, Central Florida, Nashville, North Florida, Palmetto, Research Triangle, South Florida, Tampa Bay, or Virginia.

Section 1 - Candidate Profile

Name	
Title	
Firm	
Years of Experience	
SMPS Chapter	Select
Application Contact Email	
Supervisor or Nominator	





Section 2 - Application Narrative

Key Accomplishments. *Describe and provide examples of the candidate's notable early-career achievements.*

- Promotions
- Awards
- New responsibilities
- Project achievements

Response guidance: up to 500 words. Provide examples that demonstrate growth trajectory and current achievement.

Leadership Potential. *Describe the candidate's initiative, influence, and emerging leadership qualities.*

- Initiative
- Team influence
- Mentorship received and provided

Response guidance: up to 500 words. Judge potential as heavily as current achievement, and include examples of future-facing leadership capacity.





Innovation & Initiative. *Describe and provide examples of how the candidate brings new ideas and proactive contributions.*

- New ideas
- Process improvements
- Volunteer leadership

Response guidance: up to 500 words. Highlight initiative, creative problem solving, and contributions that created positive momentum.

Professional Development. *Describe the candidate's commitment to learning and career growth. Evaluation committee will be looking for examples of exceptional growth trajectory.*

- Certifications
- SMPS involvement
- Continuing education

Response guidance: up to 500 words. Include formal credentials, training, participation, and professional development activities.





Impact Statement. *Describe why the candidate deserves recognition.*

- Why the candidate deserves recognition
- How they have elevated their firm
- How they have influenced colleagues, clients, or the profession
- Why their accomplishments matter

Response guidance: up to 500 words. Focus on why the candidate's impact and potential matter to the firm and the A/E/C profession.

Required Attachments

Please provide the required attachments as a part of this application document.

- Resume
- Recommendation Letter #1
- Recommendation Letter #2



Evaluation Reference

For applicant awareness, judges will evaluate both current achievement and future potential. Strong entries should demonstrate exceptional growth trajectory, leadership potential, initiative, and professional commitment.

Criteria	Points
Accomplishments	25
Leadership Potential	25
Initiative & Innovation	15
Professional Development	15
Recommendations	10
Impact Statement	10
Total	100