

Women MAKE America Awards

A national recognition that elevates role models and empowers women



The Women MAKE America Awards, formerly called the STEP Ahead Awards, celebrate women in STEM careers at all levels who have made outstanding achievements in their companies and communities, providing them the tools and motivation to pay it forward and inspire the next generation.

Award winners have directly empowered, inspired and connected more than 5,000 women and reached more than 20 million women, men and children—from peers in the industry to school-age children.



“This was truly an amazing experience and I am so happy to forever be a part of this group and give back. So well organized with amazing speakers and programming.”

— **Bonnie Davis**, Vice President, Global JEM, JELD-WEN and 2022 Award Honoree



“This. Event. Was. Life. Altering! To be surrounded by such amazing women was a true honor and privilege. The workshop lineup was 🙌 the topics were 🔥 and the energy was ⚡”

— **Kate Heiken**, Drilling Manager, Ovintiv USA Inc., and 2022 Award Honoree

HOW IT WORKS

Each year, companies nominate female employees who have exemplified leadership and excellence in their field. Nominees undergo a blind, peer-review process conducted by previous award winners who select 100 Honorees and 30 Emerging Leaders.

Honoree: Nominee is currently employed in manufacturing at any level of the company, from the factory floor to the C-suite.

Emerging Leader: Rising female talent (ages 18–30) who are currently employed in the manufacturing industry that have made significant contributions and excelled early in their career.



LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Awardees have an opportunity to attend an exclusive, two-day leadership training program that features presentations, panels and workshops given by the top minds in professional development, including the Harvard Kennedy School and the Chicago School of Professional Psychology among others.

Additionally, Honorees and Emerging Leaders are invited to join a private group just for alumnae to connect directly with each other and leaders in the manufacturing industry to ask questions, share lessons learned and discuss challenges and opportunities.

EVENING GALA

Following the leadership training program, the 100 Honorees and 30 Emerging Leaders are celebrated during an evening gala. Award recipients are joined by family, friends, colleagues and other company representatives.



SHOWCASE YOUR COMPANY

Sponsorship opportunities are available to help celebrate awardees and spotlight your company brand. Please review the [WMA Prospectus](#) for ideas or email WomenMAKE@nam.org.

As manufacturers continue to struggle with attracting, retaining and advancing talent, the Women MAKE America Awards offer an avenue for company action and impact by giving women across the country a platform to showcase the incredible opportunities the industry has to offer, whether they are running the company, designing the next big product or testing innovations on the shop floor.

