

# RISE UP.

Apply for yourself or nominate someone else for a “Best of Tech in Indiana” Mira Award.

Applications are due by **Friday, January 22, 2021**.

**ENTER NOW!** Visit [techpoint.org/mira](https://techpoint.org/mira) for more.

## PANDEMIC PIVOT OF THE YEAR

The tech industry is known for its creativity and adaptability when faced with problems or opportunities, and the COVID-19 pandemic presented plenty of problems and opportunities. The Pandemic Pivot of the Year award recognizes tech employers who responded in remarkable ways to: 1) serve societal or customer pandemic-induced needs, 2) seize market opportunities created by pandemic-induced market demand shifts, or 3) survive amidst very difficult pandemic-induced challenges.

## INNOVATION OF THE YEAR

The Innovation of the Year award honors scientific achievements, R&D efforts and other trailblazing discoveries that highlight the innovation coming from Indiana and that have the potential to materially change lives, a market, or an industry. Innovation could come from universities and businesses, or individual scientists, researchers, and entrepreneurs.

## TECH PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

Tech Product of the Year recognizes ground-breaking and disruptive new tech products. These commercially available, technology-enabled products (hardware, software, or data) have demonstrated that they have lasting ability and the potential for significant adoption and impact.

## SERVICE PARTNER OF THE YEAR

The Service Partner of the Year award celebrates exceptional work by professional services firms or internal teams who created the year’s best solutions, which are defined as the development of tech products or other professional services for a tech company. Services may be related to IT/cyber, design/branding, marketing/PR, legal/accounting, consulting, data science or other.

## INVESTOR OF THE YEAR

The Investor of the Year award spotlights angel investors or investment firms who bring capital plus outstanding connections, advice and attention to Indiana tech companies. This award category recognizes all types of investors who bet on Indiana tech companies and serve as critical mentors and connectors.

## RISING ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

The Rising Entrepreneur Award recognizes exceptional startup founders of any age and experience who have looked outside the box, started something new, and generated momentum. This award celebrates individuals’ courage, talent, industriousness and potential for business success as well as community impact and leadership.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

The Community Impact Award celebrates mission-driven people or organizations that have helped to push our tech community forward—the impact makers of the year. Whether it’s through a corporation, an agency, a social enterprise, or through grit and determination as an individual, these inspiring champions have made a difference for all of us, especially relating to diversity, equity and inclusion.

## TECH EDUCATION AWARD

The Tech Education Award recognizes educators, organizations and programs that inspire and open doors for learners of all ages in ways that supply the future workforce and create economic opportunity for Hoosiers. These leaders respond to the needs of students, with special attention to opportunities for underrepresented groups, and have an undeniably positive impact on student achievement and the future workforce.

2021 TECHPOINT

**MIRA** AWARDS

## RISING TECH CITY AWARD

The Rising Tech City Award honors a city, town, region or community within the state of Indiana, celebrating the projects and the people behind them who have championed the location's advancement. The emphasis is on developing compelling amenities and inclusive cultures where tech workers want to live and where tech businesses can start and thrive.

## EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYER AWARD

The Exceptional Employer Award celebrates tech companies that are doing an exceptional job developing talent; cultivating workspaces and workplace culture; and making a positive impact in the community. We especially encourage applications from employers who are advancing diversity, equity and inclusion and/or creating employment and development pathways to underrepresented individuals.

## STARTUP OF THE YEAR

The Startup of the Year award recognizes new companies (two years old or younger) with in-market tech products or services that have shown the greatest development based on growth and impact and have the most promising potential for success. These trailblazing ventures demonstrate the creative, strategic and innovative entrepreneurial spirit of Indiana's technology community.

## SCALE-UP OF THE YEAR

The Scale-up of the Year award celebrates high-growth, innovation-driven businesses that provide technology products or services (or highly tech-enabled businesses). They may be bootstrapped or venture-funded, but all of these emerging companies have built up traction beyond the startup stage. Even if they endured setbacks or revenue dips in 2020 due to the pandemic, they could be Indiana's next big tech success stories.

## LARGE ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR

The Large Enterprise of the Year award recognizes tech companies (including tech enabled) that are succeeding in the marketplace; investing in innovation; committing to diversity, equity, and inclusion; boosting Indiana's reputation nationally/internationally; and leveraging their resources and scale to make a positive impact in our community. We especially encourage applications from employers who are advancing diversity, equity and inclusion and/or creating employment and development pathways to underrepresented individuals.

## TECHPOINT TRAILBLAZER AWARD

The Trailblazer Award recognizes visionaries whose contributions have had or will have lasting and significant impact on the state and its technology ecosystem. Trailblazers are among the tech community's most inspiring and influential players. They are innovative risk-takers whose achievements and bold leadership are catalysts for growth and success.

## TECHPOINT FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH BRIDGE BUILDER AWARD

The Bridge Builder Award recognizes visionary individuals, programs or organizations that are helping underserved student populations in Indiana gain access to experiential learning opportunities that inspire the pursuit of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers. The recipient receives a \$1,000 grant award to be given to the 501c3 charity of their choice.

### QUESTIONS?

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For nomination/application & process questions

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For membership benefits & sponsorship opportunities