



The National Society of Black Engineers Golden Torch Awards Criteria for Award Categories

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Distinguished Engineer of the Year

This is NSBE's most prestigious award based on a career of outstanding achievements in an engineering or technical field and exceptional leadership.

Criteria

- Must demonstrate work that has significantly expanded his or her industry
- Must demonstrate receipt of awards and accolades
- Must demonstrate social/community contributions
- Must demonstrate activities supporting NSBE's mission
- Must hold a management level or higher position
- Must provide documentation of accomplishments in engineering and the sciences

Lifetime Achievement in Industry

Awarded to a seasoned engineering or technical professional who has exhibited technical excellence, leadership and made significant career contributions to his or her specific field over many years.

Criteria

- Must hold a management level position
- Must demonstrate work that has significantly expanded his or her industry over several years
- Must have contributed significantly to the engineering profession for at least 15 years
- Must demonstrate social/community contributions, as well as publications and lectures
- Must demonstrate activities supporting NSBE's mission
- Must hold a management-level or higher position

Outstanding Woman in Technology

Based on a career of exceptional accomplishments in an engineering or other technical field and demonstrated leadership abilities

Criteria:

- Must demonstrate exceptional leadership and a pioneering spirit in her technical field
- Must demonstrate work that has increased the number of women in engineering and technology
- Must demonstrate a high level of achievement in technology
- Must demonstrate activities supporting NSBE's mission
- Must hold a management level or higher position

Mike Shinn NSBE Distinguished Member (Male/Female) – Scholarship Included

The Mike Shinn NSBE Distinguished Member of the Year Program provides scholastic motivation to achieve and serves as a tool to encourage members to continue to strive for academic excellence, while developing professional and leadership skills through organization and community involvement. Judged on the basis of fulfillment of the mission through participation in NSBE programs and other activities, the members selected for this prestigious honor serve as role models for the entire membership.

Criteria

- NSBE Service and Involvement (Chapter, Regional, and/or National)
- NSBE & University Academic Achievement
- Professional Development
- Campus & Community Impact: Community Service and TORCH Activities
- Essay Responses

Application Criteria

- All applicants must be paid NSBE members.
- NSBE undergraduate and graduate student members are eligible to apply. (Non-engineering/technical majors are not eligible.)
- Award GPA Minimum Requirements: 3.2 on a 4.0 scale
- ***NOTE: Former Mike Shinn Distinguished Fellows are ineligible to apply.***

International Member of the Year

The International Member of the Year Award recognizes outstanding international members for their participation in Society efforts. International members will be recognized for their participation in supporting and promoting NSBE outside of the United States and their efforts in contributing to their Chapter's success overall.

Criteria

Award recipients will be selected based on a combination of the following criteria:

- NSBE Service and Involvement (Chapter, Regional, and/or National)
- Fulfillment of the NSBE Mission and Vision
- Community Service (within and outside NSBE)
- Recommendation letters (min. 2 letters)

APPLICATION CRITERIA•

- At least one recommendation letter must come from a Chapter Officer
- Minimum of 2 recommendation letters must be submitted.

Cultural Responsible Engineer Award

The Culturally Responsible Engineer Award recognizes an outstanding NSBE Collegiate student who exemplifies NSBE's mission of increasing the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers. This award celebrates a student who not only excels in their engineering studies but also demonstrates a deep commitment to addressing the unique challenges and needs of underrepresented communities through their engineering work and leadership. This award aims to recognize and encourage NSBE Collegiate students who are not only excelling in their engineering studies but are also actively working to ensure that engineering solutions are culturally sensitive, inclusive, and beneficial to all communities, particularly those that have been historically underserved or marginalized.

Criteria

- Must be a current NSBE Collegiate student in good academic standing
- Demonstrates a clear understanding and application of cultural responsibility in engineering projects or research
- Shows significant contributions to projects or initiatives that address issues specifically affecting Black communities or other underrepresented groups
- Exhibits leadership in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within their engineering program or broader STEM community
- Actively engages in mentoring or outreach activities to inspire and support other underrepresented students in STEM
- Demonstrates the ability to navigate and address ethical considerations in engineering with a focus on cultural implications
- Shows a commitment to continuous learning about the intersection of engineering, culture, and social responsibility
- Provides evidence of how their approach to culturally responsible engineering has influenced their academic work, career goals, and community involvement
- Collaborates effectively with diverse teams and stakeholders in engineering projects
- Demonstrates the ability to communicate complex engineering concepts to non-technical audiences, particularly in underserved communities

Excellence in Community Impact Award

The Excellence in Community Impact Award recognizes an outstanding NSBE Collegiate student who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to making a positive difference in their community through STEM-related initiatives. This award celebrates students who go above and beyond in applying their engineering knowledge and skills to address real-world challenges, inspire the next generation of STEM leaders, and create lasting impact in underserved communities. This award aims to recognize and encourage NSBE Collegiate students who are making a tangible difference in their communities while embodying the spirit of NSBE's mission.

Criteria

- Must be a current NSBE Collegiate student
- Demonstrates leadership in developing or implementing STEM-based community service projects
- Shows a significant and measurable impact on the target community through their initiatives
- Exhibits creativity and innovation in applying engineering principles to solve community problems
- Actively engages in mentoring or outreach activities to inspire K-12 students, particularly from underrepresented groups, to pursue STEM careers

- Collaborates effectively with community partners, local organizations, or schools to extend the reach and impact of their initiatives
- Aligns their community work with NSBE's mission to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers
- Shows sustained commitment to community service over time, not just a one-time effort
- Demonstrates the ability to balance academic excellence with community engagement
- Provides evidence of how their community impact work has influenced their personal and professional growth

ORGANIZATIONAL AWARDS

Corporate Community Service

Awarded to a company with a demonstrated investment in the African-American community including neighborhood development, technology and advocacy.

Criteria

- Must demonstrate outstanding contributions to community programs
- Must demonstrate pioneering initiatives in community leadership
- Must demonstrate significant impact on the community
- Must demonstrate scope/reach of current programs
- Must demonstrate activities supporting the NSBE mission
- Must indicate scope of commitment to the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields
- Must have exhibited community interest by encouraging African Americans to pursue careers in engineering and the sciences

Corporate Diversity Leadership Award

Awarded to a corporation that has demonstrated commitment to the recruitment, retention and promotion of minorities. Awardees have demonstrated outstanding efforts to create an environment to attract retain and support minority technical professionals.

Criteria

- Must demonstrate outstanding contributions to diversity programs
- Must demonstrate pioneering initiatives in community leadership
- Must demonstrate significant positive impact on a diverse community
- Must demonstrate activities supporting NSBE's mission
- Must indicate scope of commitment to the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields

NSBE Partner of the Year

The NSBE Partner of the Year is dedicated to the delivery of benefits to Black communities. Nominees help amplify the sustainability and effectiveness of programs that deepen the knowledge of and passion for engineering students and professionals. Through their work, commitments are made to provide tools, services, or resources to underrepresented communities in STEM. Nominees also have systems in place that lead to the equitable recruitment, retention, and advancement of Black engineers, while also providing a budgetary backbone for development efforts.

Criteria

The nominee must demonstrate the criteria below within the following focus areas:

- **Dedication:** Demonstrates positive values and behaviors that influence employees and others to support NSBE's efforts
- **Change Agent:** Influences or stimulates others to effect positive change by supporting and promoting the advancement of Black students and professionals in engineering
- **Social Impact:** Demonstrated investment, in scope and scale, of local communities
- **Outreach:** Supports the Society's mission to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community

PRE-COLLEGE AWARDS

Pre-College Program of the Year

Awarded to an institution or program with demonstrated programmatic success in helping to prepare students for college math, science and/or engineering education.

Criteria

- Must demonstrate outstanding contributions to the pre-college effort
- Must demonstrate the positive impact of a program with a focus on math, science or engineering
- Must demonstrate significant positive impact within the community
- Must demonstrate scope/reach of current programs
- Must demonstrate activities supporting the NSBE mission

Pre-College Students of the Year (2) Male and Female

High school senior that has shown promise in science, math or engineering. Based on GPA, coursework, school activities, letters of recommendation. This award is accompanied by a scholarship. Verifiable acceptance into engineering/math science program at an accredited college or university is required.

Criteria

- Must have an equivalent of 3.0 grade point average or higher (4.0 scale)
- Must demonstrate leadership activities
- Must demonstrate involvement in community
- Must demonstrate participation in pre-college initiative activities
- Must demonstrate interest in engineering, technology, math or science
- Must be a member or participant in a math, science or technology related extracurricular activity
- Must provide documentation of accomplishments

Rising Star Engineer of the Year Award (4) 2 Male/2 Female

Awarded to an outstanding elementary and middle school student who demonstrates exceptional promise and passion in STEM fields, particularly in engineering-related activities. This award aims to recognize and encourage students who show early promise in engineering and STEM fields, fostering their continued growth and aligning with NSBE's mission to increase diversity in these areas.

Criteria

- Must show remarkable enthusiasm and aptitude for STEM subjects, especially in areas related to engineering
- Must demonstrate creativity and innovation in science fair projects, robotics competitions, or other STEM-related activities
- Must exhibit leadership qualities and the ability to inspire peers in STEM pursuits
- Must show active participation in STEM programs or clubs within their school or community
- Must demonstrate how their interest in engineering aligns with NSBE's mission to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers

ACADEMIA AWARDS

Graduate Student of the Year

Awarded to a graduate student based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, personal accomplishments and demonstrated leadership in engineering or other technical fields.

Criteria

- Must be an active NSBE member
- Minimum 3.4 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)
- Must provide details of documented research activities
- Must demonstrate outstanding contributions to their engineering discipline
- Must provide proof of published articles, awards, accolades or other recognition
- Must have demonstrated leadership activities
- Must demonstrate significant contributions to campus and/or community

NSBE PROFESSIONAL MEMBER AWARDS

Professional Member of the Year Criteria

SELECTION CRITERIA

Award recipients will be selected based on a combination of the following criteria:

- NSBE Professional Service and Involvement (Chapter, Regional, and/or National)
- Fulfillment of the NSBE Mission and the Professional Vision
- Community Service (within and outside NSBE)
- Recommendation letters (min. 2 letters)

APPLICATION CRITERIA

Nominees should be selected by a person who believes that he/she deserves to be Professional Member of the Year. The person making the nomination may select more than one nominee.

- You may nominate yourself however at least one recommendation letter must come from a Professional Chapter Officer, a Regional or National Professional Executive Board member.
- **Minimum of 2 recommendation letters must be submitted.**
- All nominees must be national and local (if applicable) paid NSBE Professional members.
- The application must be submitted online via NSBE GTA Application

Technologist of the Year Criteria

ELIGIBILITY:

- Nationally paid Professional NSBE member
- You may nominate yourself but a letter of recommendation on your technical achievements from an external party must accompany the application

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Significant Scientific or Engineering Achievement
- NSBE Technical Activity (SIG, Chapter, Regional, and/or National project)
- Advancement of the NSBE Mission and Professional Vision