



# ATHENA LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS



The ATHENA Leadership Award celebrates exemplary leadership and is reflective of a quote by Plato: *What is honored in a country will be cultivated there.* More than 8,300 recipients have been honored with the ATHENA Leadership Award since the program's inception in 1982.

Presented to leaders across professional sectors, the ATHENA Leadership Award's rich history, international scope and focus on mentorship distinguish it as one of the most prestigious leadership awards one can receive.

## THE CRITERIA

ATHENA Leadership Award Nominees must meet each of the following three criteria:

- Demonstrate excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession
- Provide valuable service to improve the quality of life for others in their community
- Actively assist women in achieving their full leadership potential

## ATHENA GUIDING TENETS:

- **Authentic Self:** Understanding who they are - their values, beliefs and thoughts. Honoring their uniqueness. Accepting personal responsibility for their actions.
- **Celebration & Joy:** Appreciating and acknowledging their accomplishments. Looking forward to their life with a sense of hope and purpose.
- **Collaboration:** Reaching out beyond what they can achieve on their own. Working in unison with others, while celebrating diverse points of view, ideas and actions.
- **Courageous Acts:** Standing up and standing firm in the face of fear. Taking risks to speak the truth or challenge the way things have always been done.
- **Fierce Advocacy:** Supporting and acting on their passion for people, causes or ideas. Creating an unstoppable force for the greater good.
- **Giving Back:** Serving the greater good. Committing to help their personal community of family, friends and peers as well as the global village at large.
- **Learning:** Challenging themselves to listen and be open to what is new and unfamiliar. Expanding and developing their knowledge, skills and experiences. Teaching others.
- **Relationships:** Connecting with and embracing others. Appreciating the gifts and talents of different people in their life.

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Award Nominees must live or work in Gratiot County.
- ATHENA Leadership Award Nominees may represent either the profit or nonprofit sector.
- Previous ATHENA Leadership Award Recipients are not eligible for nomination, however past nominees will be considered for 3 years and nominators can update applications annually.
- There is no minimum or maximum age qualification that must be met by ATHENA Leadership Award Nominees.
- Only one nominee per organization will be considered.

## COMPLETING THE FORM

- Nominations for the ATHENA Leadership Award must be submitted using this [nomination form](#).
- Include 3 letters of recommendation.
- For questions, contact [chamberathena@gmail.com](mailto:chamberathena@gmail.com)
- **RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION BY MARCH 13, 2026 TO:**  
[chamberathena@gmail.com](mailto:chamberathena@gmail.com)

The ATHENA Award recipient will be announced at the 30th ATHENA Award Ceremony, Thursday, April 9, 2026 at Masonic Pathways Doig Chapel; Alma, MI 48801



# **ATHENA Leadership Award Nomination Form** (page 1 of 5)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **NOMINEE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Email \_\_\_\_\_

## **NOMINATOR**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



# ATHENA Leadership Award Nomination Form (page 2 of 5)

## **I. PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Provide specific examples of how the nominee has demonstrated excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession.

**II. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:**

Provide specific examples of how the nominee provides valuable service to improve the quality of life for others in their community. Include type and length of service in civic and service organizations and initiatives.



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## **III. PERSONAL LEADERSHIP/ MENTORSHIP:**

Provide specific examples of how the nominee has actively assisted women in achieving their full leadership potential, and/or demonstrated support for their personal and professional advancement.



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## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO CRITERIA:**

Include any additional information you feel is important for consideration of your nominee. Include awards, honors, publications, articles and/or testimonials that demonstrate service to their profession, community, and, most importantly, aspiring and established women leaders.