Conexus Indiana Rising 30
Nomination Primer

Indiana's advanced manufacturing and logistics industries are the backbone of the Hoosier economy, employing more than 700,000 Hoosiers and making and moving products that impact our everyday lives. Honoring 30 young trailblazers under the age of 30 in Indiana's advanced manufacturing and logistics industries is one of many ways Conexus Indiana supports the state's continued leadership in the make-and-move economy.

This year marks the fifth year of the Conexus Rising 30 program, which recognizes young professionals each year for their early accomplishments and innovative thinking in the advanced manufacturing and logistics industries. The honorees are announced each year in May during a special event in Indianapolis. Following the awards celebration, Rising 30 honorees are recognized in local and statewide media outlets and integrated into Conexus Indiana's work.

Nominee Criteria

1. Nominees must be 30 years old or younger by the end of the 2025 calendar year. There is no minimum age requirement.
2. Applicants must work in Indiana and be nominated by a supporting organization.
3. Only one person per organization is eligible to be selected each year. (An organization may still submit multiple nominations for consideration if interested.)

An Ideal Candidate

The ideal Rising 30 candidate exemplifies the following characteristics:

- **Manufacturing or Logistics Impact:** Directly shapes the design, manufacture or logistics of products
- **AML Innovator/Change-Maker:** Leads transformational change and innovation in some way inside the company
- **Community Impact:** Committed to volunteerism, mentorship, community involvement or developing other leaders (preference given to AML-specific community impact)
- **Storyteller/Inspiration to Others**: Influences and inspires others to enact change
- **Career Progression:** Demonstrates career advancement with compelling future goals

Nomination Process

To be considered for the Rising 30 Class of 2026, candidates must first receive a nomination. Nominations are collected via a digital form which can be found on the Conexus Indiana website (under Rising 30) in late October. Anyone may nominate a candidate, but the ideal nominee is a mentor, supervisor or colleague.

Once the nominator completes and submits the nomination form, the candidate will receive an email prompting them to complete a supporting nominee form. The questions on each form are outlined below.

Class of 2026 Nomination & Selection Timeline

- **Oct. 27, 2025:** Nominations open in late October for the 2026 class
- **Jan. 9, 2026:** Nominations close in early January for the 2026 class; selection begins according to a rubric aligned with nominee criteria and ideal candidate characteristics (above)
- **March 3, 2026:** Conexus notifies each nominee and nominator by early March, reporting the results of the selection process

Nominators will be asked the following questions:
Subject to minor changes or additions.

- Please describe how the nominee has accelerated, promoted and grown advanced manufacturing and/or logistics in the state of Indiana through innovation, inspiration, and collaboration. Please provide at least one example.
- What specific professional and personal attributes does this nominee possess that set them apart from their peers?

Nominees will be asked the following questions:
Subject to minor changes or additions.

- Tell us about your professional role and what you are responsible for day-to-day.
- How does your role/business function impact the way products are designed, manufactured or moved in Indiana and beyond?
- How are you leading transformational change and/or innovation inside the company? Provide specific examples (i.e., projects, programs, etc.)
- What is your career journey to date and what are your goals/aspirations for the future?
- Are you involved in volunteerism, mentorship and/or community engagement? If yes, please share.
- What obstacles have you overcome (or are you currently overcoming) to progress in your career?
- Who is your role model and what leadership traits do you admire in others?

Selection & Recognition

Conexus Indiana will select and notify its cohort by March 2, 2026. Nominees who did not earn the recognition this year will be notified shortly thereafter.

The Rising 30 evening celebration will be held in early May in Indianapolis. This 250-person event includes honorees from the 2026 Rising 30 cohort and their nominators, Rising 30 alumni, Conexus Indiana Board of Directors and other industry leaders who represent Indiana's manufacturing and logistics industries.

Conexus Indiana is currently seeking sponsors for its 2026 Rising 30 program. Please contact **Kelsey O'Shaughnessy at koshaughnessy@conexusindiana.com** to view this year's sponsorship packet. *Please note, sponsorship does not influence honoree selection.*