



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

*TACOMA – OLYMPIA SECTION*

## 2026 OPAL AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

[OUTSTANDING PROJECTS AND LEADSHIP AWARDS]

***"MOVING INTO OUR FUTURE!"***

**OPENING DATE: MONDAY - MARCH 2, 2026**

**CLOSING DATE: MONDAY- APRIL 13, 2026**

# 2026 OPAL AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

## "MOVING INTO OUR FUTURE!"

The Tacoma-Olympia ASCE Section Announces its 2026 Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Awards Program. Our Theme for this Year's AWARDS PROGRAM is:

**“MOVING INTO OUR FUTURE!”**

We felt we should have a Theme this Year that would be a great motivating theme as we move out of the past several years into the new and into the future.

The ASCE OPAL Program recognizes Individuals and Projects that have made significant accomplishments, achievements, and differences in our community in the following categories: **Design & Construction; Government; Education; Management and/or Community Service.** The OPAL Awards Program is an important and exciting way to recognize the great work that Civil Engineers and Companies and Individuals do in their professions and communities. Award Recipients at the Section Level may go forward to receive nominations and awards at the Regional and National levels as well.

We have had some exciting projects submitted in the past.

This Year, the ASCE Tacoma/Olympia Section will be accepting Nominations for Projects and Leadership Categories noted below:

- **Small Projects (Under \$1 million in value)**
- **Large Projects (Over \$1 million in value)**
- **Leadership**
- **Youth Leadership (College Students and Persons 35 Years or younger in age)**

You can read more about the criteria for nominating a project or individual below. Nominations are accepted during the OPAL AWARDS Submittal period March through April of this AWARD year.

We see the Awards Program as a fun, exciting way to celebrate our Profession. Our Section membership is full of great engineers, and our geographic area is positively steaming with noteworthy projects. The Awards Program is also a great way to give press to all the great work that we are doing. If you would like to get involved, there are several ways to help. You can put together a nomination package for one of our award categories! You could also help us out by volunteering to evaluate nomination submittals in April. Or, most importantly, you can come out to our Annual Awards event in May and join us for the presentation of awards.

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Below are listed the process for the OPAL AWARDS:

### **I. Nominations**

The Nomination process is ongoing throughout the year. To be considered for an Award, a complete Nomination Package must be submitted to and received by the Awards Committee by the Date as identified (SEE PAGE 1) in the package. The Section sets the exact dates each year (varies each year) - check the application instructions for more information. Applications are screened for completeness by the committee prior to acceptance. The screening is not instantaneous - so do not wait until the last minute! Maintaining this deadline is important so that winners may go on to be considered at the Regional 8 and/or National Levels and be present for our Awards Ceremony in April or May.

You can find all of the various resources and forms you need to make an application in the list below. If you have a complete package and you would like to submit it for review, Please submit Applications by email to the person/email address noted at the end of his document.

FORMS are available on the [ASCE Tacoma/Olympia Section Website](#)

### **II. Evaluations**

Each application will be evaluated and scored based on the criteria relevant to the Category under which it is submitted. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 5 being the best possible score. The highest composite score wins for each category. The Awards Committee periodically reviews and updates criteria for nominations, but the following are generally the criteria that remains the same from year to year:

- Projects must be completed any time in the prior year or in the year submitting.
- **Companies must be within the geographic area of representation of the Tacoma/Olympia Section.** The Project being submitted for consideration may be outside the Tacoma/Olympia Section area.
- Persons of Leadership must reside in the geographic area of the Tacoma/Olympia Section and may have services included from the past up to and inclusive of the year of nomination.

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Nomination Packages are evaluated and scored by the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee is chaired by the Section's Award Committee Chair and composed of volunteers from the Section and members of the Past Presidents Committee. If you would like to help us out this year in evaluating nomination packages, please contact us at the contact information noted below.

### **III. Awards Ceremony**

The Section typically holds its Annual Honors & Awards Banquet in May. The Banquet is used as an opportunity to present Awards to the winners and share in an Evening of Celebration for our profession and the hard work and accomplishments of the year. In addition to presenting Awards for each of our OPAL Categories, we take the opportunity to recognize members of the Section who have achieved Life Member status in the year preceding the Banquet. We encourage all of our Members to attend the Banquet as an opportunity to connect with their Fellow Civil Engineering Professionals and our Section's most prestigious Engineers and to see what award-winning service looks like.

Details for the Banquet will be finalized in May. As soon as we have opened registration, you can find the link to register here!

The date, time and location for The Annual Honors & Awards Banquet has not been determined yet at this time. We will keep people posted/informed as things progress.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS:**

All Nominations are to be submitted to the following:

*R. Michael Hale, P.E., MEM*

ASCE Tacoma/Olympia Section OPAL Awards /Outreach Committee Chair/

Engineering/STEM Mentor

Email: [skahale3@yahoo.com](mailto:skahale3@yahoo.com)

(253) 377-8221

**“GOOD LUCK TO ALL NOMINEES & SUBMITTALS!”**

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