**NAL SWE Engineer of the Year Awards**

The North Alabama Society of Women Engineers seeks to recognize outstanding engineers for their professional, academic, and leadership achievements. The annual awards program recognizes three engineers at varying levels of their careers, outlined in the packet below.

**Nomination process:**

1. Identify the award that you or your nominee are eligible for (self nominations are accepted and encouraged). Verify that the nominee meets all requirements outlined in the award description.
2. Collect all required documentation into a single nomination packet. All documents must be PDFs or Word documents.
3. Submit the nomination packet to the form at tinyurl.com/2026-nal-swe-awards by **May 23, 2026 at 23:59 CDT**. No late submissions will be accepted.

Awardees will be selected and notified by **June 6, 2026**. Awardees will be recognized at the annual end of the year celebration.

**General requirements:**

- **Eligibility:**
  - For professional awards, nominees must be members of NAL SWE and in good standing for the current fiscal year.
  - For the collegiate award, nominees must be enrolled at a college or university within the NAL SWE zip code boundaries (356**, 357**, 358**) studying engineering, technology, or a related science.
- **Resume/CV:**
  - Please provide a summary of your professional, academic, leadership, and service experience in the form of a resume or curriculum vitae.
- **Formal statement:**
  - Address the selection criteria and why the nominee is deserving of the award.
- **Letters of recommendation:**
  - Letters of recommendation can be provided by a professional or service reference.
- **Biography:**
  - If selected as an awardee, this biography would be published with the award announcement. It should be a summary of your achievements as outlined in the selection criteria.
  - Maximum length: 100 words
- **Years of experience:**
  - For these awards, years of experience includes full or part time work in engineering, technology, or a related science. Internships and co-ops do not count towards years of experience, nor do periods of unemployment.

## NAL SWE Engineer of the Year - Apogee Award (Professional)

This award is given to an outstanding professional member of NAL SWE. Professionals are defined as any working professional with 10 or more years of experience at the time of the nomination. Awardees are selected based on their professional achievements, leadership, and community involvement. NAL SWE encourages nominations of individuals with diverse and nontraditional career paths, including those who entered or formalized their education later in their careers. Nominees must be members of NAL SWE and working in engineering, technology, or a related science.

**Criteria:**

- 60% professional activities:
    - Discuss your academic and professional achievements, including technical and leadership achievements.
- 40% leadership and service activities:
    - Discuss your leadership and service involvement, including service to SWE and other community organizations. Describe the leadership roles you have served in and any achievements in these roles.

**Requirements:**

- Resume/CV (3 pages or less)
- Formal statement of 1,500 words or less
- 2 letters of recommendation
- Biography of 100 words or less

## NAL SWE Engineer of the Year - Ascent Award (New Professional)

This award is given to an outstanding new professional member of NAL SWE. New professionals are defined as any working professional with less than 10 years of experience at the time of the nomination. Awardees are selected based on professional achievements, leadership, and community involvement. Nominees must be members of NAL SWE and working in engineering, technology, or a related science.

**Criteria:**

- 60% professional activities:
    - Discuss your academic and professional achievements, including technical and leadership achievements.
- 40% leadership and service activities:
    - Discuss your leadership and service involvement, including service to SWE and other community organizations. Describe the leadership roles you have served in and any achievements in these roles.

**Requirements:**

- Resume/CV (2 pages or less)
- Formal statement of 1,000 words or less

- 2 letters of recommendation
- Biography of 100 words or less

**NAL SWE Engineer of the Year - Ignite Award (Collegiate)**

This award is given to an outstanding collegiate affiliated with the North Alabama Society of Women Engineers. Awardees are selected based on their academic performance, professional activities, community service, and leadership activities. Nominees must be enrolled at a college or university within the NAL SWE zip code boundaries (356**, 357**, 358**) and studying engineering, technology, or a related science.

**Criteria:**

- 50% academic performance and professional activities:
    - Discuss your academic and professional achievements, including any future career goals. Describe any research, internship, or academic roles and special projects performed as a student.
- 50% leadership and service activities:
    - Discuss your leadership and service involvement, including extracurriculars and involvement outside of the university. Describe the leadership roles you have served in and how this experience will inform your future career as an engineer.

**Requirements:**

- Resume (2 pages or less)
- Formal statement of 500 words or less
- 1 letter of recommendation
- Biography of 100 words or less