



USASBE 2027

Achievement and Advocacy Awards

John E. Hughes Award for Entrepreneurial Achievement

John E. Hughes was born in February, 1927; dropped out of high school in 1944, and volunteered for military service in World War II, serving with the parachute infantry. After leaving the service, he obtained a high school GED in 1947, and went on to receive his C.P.A. certificate from the University of Illinois in 1957. In 1968, he founded his own C.P.A. firm. After selling his firm, he went on to be an owner and CEO at Archibald/Fannie May Candy Shops, Inc. from 1981 through 1991, selling his interest in October 1991. Mr. Hughes is passionate about self-employment and its positive impact on individuals and communities, which is why this award was established in his name supported by the Coleman Foundation where Mr. Hughes was Board Chairman Emeritus.

The John E. Hughes Award for Entrepreneurial Achievement **recognizes an individual who, through significant and sustained entrepreneurial initiatives, has demonstrated a unique ability to accept and manage risk, exercise personal control, and acquire personal reward.** The recipients **should be an entrepreneur** (new venture, corporate, and/or social) that is **committed to entrepreneurship education** and has **demonstrated impact on the field of entrepreneurship, community leadership and philanthropic giving.**

Achievement and Advocacy Awards Timeline:

October 30, 2026: Nominations are due

February 10-12, 2027: Winners are announced at USASBE 2027

Nomination Requirements:

- Have the following information ready to provide when submitting a nomination
 - Name, institution and contact information for the person submitting the nomination
 - Name, institution and contact information for the person being nominated
 - A brief quote (2-3 sentences) that captures the nominee's impact, achievements, or qualities that make them deserving of this recognition.



- This quote may be published, displayed or read aloud in public settings
- Letter of Nomination
 - PDF format
 - Maximum of 2 pages
 - Content should describe how the nominee fits the following criteria:
 - Nominees should be an individual who has used business ownership to make a positive contribution to the world. Business ownership can be through a startup or being a CEO of an existing organization.
 - Nominees should demonstrate a commitment to entrepreneurship education at any level. Their impact on entrepreneurship education will be considered in the review process.
 - Nominees should exhibit philanthropic achievement recognizing the importance of "paying it forward" to help others (including organizations) positively impact their community.
 - Please be very specific in listing and/or describing the accomplishments, contributions and impact of the nominee.
- Submit your nomination to the [USASBE 2027 John E. Hughes Award for Entrepreneurial Achievement form](#)

Selection Process

1. The USASBE Awards Committee (and their designees if necessary) will review all applications based on the above stated criteria.
2. After review, they will decide whether or not to offer this award in any given year, and if so, to whom the award will be given.
3. If a recipient is selected in a given year, USASBE HQ will reach out to the nominee to confirm that they are willing to accept the award and available to attend the annual conference to accept their award.
4. Award recipients will be announced during the USASBE Annual Conference