**2025 Indiana Uplands Regional Innovation Awards**

The Indiana Uplands Regional Innovation Awards recognize deserving people, organizations, and projects that have made meaningful improvements to education, economic development, and/or quality of place within the 11 counties of the Uplands region. The awards highlight the amazing people and groups working to make the Indiana Uplands a terrific place to work, live, learn, and play! Any member of the public may nominate an individual, entity, or eff ort for one or more of the awards listed below.

**Nominations must be complete by Jan. 31, 2025. To submit your nomination, complete the form below and email it to Suzannah Couch at scouch@regionalopportunityinc.org**

Awardees will be recognized during the ROI Annual Report to the Region held on **Tuesday, Feb. 18**, 2025. For information on how to register and attend this year's event, please visit [www.regionalopportunityinc.org](http://www.regionalopportunityinc.org).

*\* Indicates required question*

\* **Nominator name (your name)**

\* **Nominator email (your email)**

*Highlight the award you are nominating below and using the following pages answer questions related to your submission.*

* The **Becky Skillman Regional Leadership Award**, recognizing an individual or organization that has shown uncommon dedication to bringing the Indiana Uplands region together in pursuit of regional success and prosperity.
* The **Regional Collaboration Award**, recognizing two or more organizations that have worked collaboratively to advance prosperity for residents of the Indiana Uplands region through education, economic, or quality of place eff orts.
* The **Diversity Innovation Award**, honoring individuals or organizations that have implemented innovative strategies for attracting and/or retaining diversity in the region.
* The **Employer Innovation Award**, recognizing an Indiana Uplands employer who has developed creative solutions to talent and workforce development challenges, supports the success of regional key sectors, and exemplifies meaningful partnerships with K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions, and/or other employers.
* The **Quality of Place Innovation Award**, recognizing projects and meaningful community improvements that enhance the Indiana Uplands as an inventive, industrious, and friendly place to live, work, and play.
* The **STEM Innovation Award**, recognizing a program or organization that has made meaningful and novel contributions to STEM education or training in the Indiana Uplands.
* The **Talent Innovation Award**, recognizing an entity that has designed and deployed an innovative strategy for improving our regional workforce through training, skill advancement, or talent attraction to the Indiana Uplands.

**The Becky Skillman Regional Leadership Award**

The Becky Skillman Regional Leadership Award recognizes an individual or organization that has shown uncommon dedication to bringing the Indiana Uplands region together in pursuit of regional success and prosperity.

**Eligibility:** An individual person or an organization may be nominated.

\* **Who are you nominating for this award?**

\***What is your affiliation with the person or entity you are nominating?**

*Please limit your response to 100 words or less.*

\* **Please describe how this person or entity has shown uncommon dedication to bringing the Uplands region together in pursuit of regional success and prosperity. How has this person or entity made regional advancement a focal point of their professional or personal mission?**

*Please limit your response to 300 words.*

**The Talent Innovation Award**

The Talent Innovation Award recognizes an entity that has designed and deployed an innovative strategy for improving our regional workforce through training, skill advancement, or talent attraction.

**Eligibility:** Organizations from industry, education, the nonprofit sector, or other regional employers may be nominated. The nominee must be located or have a meaningful effort based within the 11 counties of the Indiana Uplands.

\* **What organization are you nominating for this award?**

\***What is your affiliation with the organization or entity you are nominating?**

*Please limit your response to 100 words or less.*

**\* Please describe how this organization’s work has provided an innovative strategy for improving the regional workforce in the Indiana Uplands through training, skill advancement, or talent attraction. How has this entity improved the overall quality of the workforce talent pool and what is special about their approach?**

*Please limit your response to 300 words.*

**The STEM Innovation Award**

The STEM Innovation Award recognizes a program or organization that has made meaningful and novel contributions to STEM education or training in the Indiana Uplands.

**Eligibility:** Organizations, specific programs, and collaborative projects may be nominated.

\* **What organization, program, or project are you nominating for this award?**

\***What is your affiliation with the organization or entity you are nominating?**

*Please limit your response to 100 words or less.*

**\* Please describe how this entity has made meaningful and novel contributions to STEM education or training in the region. How has this organization helped build the pool of STEM-literate candidates in the workforce or the population as a whole?**

*Please limit your response to 300 words.*

**The Regional Collaboration Award**

The Regional Collaboration Award recognizes two or more organizations that have worked collaboratively to advance prosperity for residents of the Indiana Uplands region through education, economic, or quality of place eff orts.

**Eligibility:** Two or more organizations working collaboratively in the Indiana Uplands are eligible.

\* **What is the name of the collaboration you are nominating for this award?**

**\* Please list the other entities that participated in this collaboration, including a point of contact name and email for each.**

\***What is your affiliation with the collaborative effort you are nominating?**

*Please limit your response to 100 words or less.*

**\* Please describe the collaboration you are nominating and how the contributors have worked together to advance prosperity for residents of the Indiana Uplands region. How have these organizations collaborated to create novel opportunities for the region?**

*Please limit your response to 300 words.*

**The Quality of Place Innovation Award**

The Quality of Place Innovation Award recognizes projects and meaningful community improvements that enhance the Indiana Uplands as an inventive, industrious, and friendly place to live, work, and play.

**Eligibility:** Projects and initiatives within the Uplands.

**\* What is the project or initiative you are nominating for this award?**

**\* Please list the entities that participated in this project.**

**\* What is your affiliation with the quality of place initiative or project you are nominating?**

*Please limit your response to 100 words or less.*

**\* Please describe how this project has advanced or created meaningful community improvement(s) in the Indiana Uplands. How has this project enhanced the region's image as an inventive, industrious, and friendly place to live, work, and play?**

*Please limit your response to 300 words.*

**The Employer Innovation Award**

The Employer Innovation Award recognizes an Indiana Uplands employer who seeks creative solutions to talent and workforce development challenges, supports the success of regional key sectors, and exemplifies partnerships with K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions, and/or other employers.

**Eligibility:** An organization from the industry sector may be nominated. The nominee must be located or have a meaningful eff ort based within the 11 counties of the Indiana Uplands.

\* **What organization are you nominating for this award?**

**\* What is your affiliation with the person or entity you are nominating?**

*Please limit your response to 100 words or less.*

**\* Please describe how this organization seeks creative solutions to talent and workforce development challenges while designing catalytic workforce development strategies. How has this entity partnered with K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions, and/or other employers?**

*Please limit your response to 300 words.*

**The Diversity Innovation Award**

The Diversity Innovation Award recognizes individuals or organizations that have implemented innovative strategies for attracting and/or retaining diversity in the regional workforce.

**Eligibility:** An individual person or an organization may be nominated.

\* **Who are you nominating for this award?**

**\* What is your affiliation with the person or entity you are nominating?**

*Please limit your response to 100 words or less.*

**\* Please describe how this person or entity has worked to attract and/or retain a diverse workforce. How has this person or entity prioritized diversity in their business, training, or hiring practices?**

*Please limit your response to 300 words.*

**Thank you for your nomination!**

Your input helps us recognize and celebrate the best of the Indiana Uplands! If your nominee is selected as a winner we will contact you about next steps.