2023 SMTA Members of Distinction Annual Awards

Request for Nominations

Deadline | July 28 | 2023
SMTA has recognized exceptional Individual and Corporate Members for their immeasurable contributions to the Association since 1994. Please join us to show our appreciation for SMTA members dedicated to preserving the traditions of the association and maintaining high standards of professionalism in the industry. We invite you to take a few minutes to nominate individual or corporate members for one of the prestigious SMTA awards to be presented at the SMTA International Conference.

Criteria & Process

- Any corporate or individual member nominated for a Member of Distinction Award must be in good standing (dues paid) at the time of the nomination, when selected for the award by the committee, and at the time the award is presented at SMTA International. Eligibility is confirmed by SMTA HQ.

- Nominees from a prior year not selected for the award are eligible for re-nomination.

- All SMTA members in good standing are eligible to submit nominations. You may nominate a different candidate in each category.

- Current members of the Board of Directors are not eligible.

- All nominations must be submitted by someone other than the nominee and submitted online at www.smta.org/awards.

- The candidate list and completed forms are forwarded to the Awards Committee, chaired by the Past SMTA President, which is responsible for selecting a recipient in each category based on the established criteria.

- The final selections are presented to the Board of Directors for ratification and formal action.

- The Members of Distinction Awards will be presented at the SMTA International Conference and Electronics Exhibition.
Award Categories

♦ Founder's Award ♦
Presented to a member who has made exceptional contributions to the industry and provided ongoing support and service to the SMTA. The recipient must be an SMTA member for a minimum of three years prior to the award.

♦ Technical Distinction Award ♦
Presented to a member who has made outstanding and continuing technical contributions to the SMTA over a period of at least three years. Minimum criteria for this award includes serving on a technical committee, presenting technical papers or conducting a course(s) at local, regional or national conferences.

♦ Excellence in Leadership Award ♦
Presented to a member who has shown exceptional dedication to the SMTA, serving as a leader at the national, international, and/or chapter level. The individual’s involvement has enhanced the association, expanded programs, or made a significant impact to achieve the SMTA mission. The recipient must be an SMTA member for a minimum of three years prior to the award.

♦ International Leadership Award ♦
Presented to a member who has provided outstanding support and leadership to the SMTA's international members, chapters, or educational programs. This person’s efforts have resulted in the further development and maturation of the SMTA network, chapters, and programs outside of the USA. The recipient must be a member for a minimum of two years prior to the award.

♦ SMTA+ Corporate Award ♦
Presented to an SMTA corporate member company that has shown exceptional support of the SMTA. This award is based on the multitude of ways that a company has contributed to the SMTA. Examples include: attending and participating in technical conferences and events, supporting chapter or national leaders, encouraging and supporting individual members, etc. This award is not based on a company’s product or a service.

♦ Stromberg Student Leader Scholarship ♦
The $3,000 JoAnn Stromberg Student Leader Scholarship is awarded annually to a student pursuing a degree in electronics manufacturing (or surrounding industry) and actively involved in the SMTA. Its purpose is to encourage students to take on more leadership opportunities and strengthen the connection between students and the electronics industry.
2022 Recipients

♦ Founders Award ♦

This award was presented to Irene Sterian (posthumously)

The association's highest honor, the Founder's Award, recognizes members who have made exceptional contributions to the industry, as well as support and service to the SMTA. This year, the organization selected Irene Sterian (posthumously) to receive this prestigious award. In her corporate and industry leadership roles, Irene influenced and inspired many in the SMTA and the electronics industry for decades. She was an especially bright spark encouraging countless women in technology. A member since 2003, Irene served on the SMTA Global Board of Directors from 2004-2009. She continued to support various SMTA conferences, committees, and mentorship efforts over the years. SMTA and the electronics industry have benefited immensely from Irene’s contributions over the years and her death earlier this year was a great loss for everyone that knew her.

♦ Technical Distinction Award ♦

This award was presented to Richard Coyle, Ph.D., Nokia Bell Labs.

This award recognizes individuals who have made significant and continuing technical contributions to the association. This year the Awards Committee selected Richard Coyle, Ph.D., Nokia Bell Labs, as the recipient of this award. A former VP of Technical Programs on the SMTA Global Board of Directors, Richard has presented numerous award-winning technical papers at SMTA conferences and supported several technical committees over the years.

♦ Corporate+ Partnership Award ♦

This award was presented to Lockheed Martin

As a Corporate Bronze member, Lockheed Martin has shown support at every level of the association from supporting chapter leadership positions to technical contributions for conferences and committees. They embody the SMTA mission by encouraging employees to become members, attend meetings and share their knowledge. Lockheed Martin is most deserving of this honor.
2022 Recipients

◆ EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD◆

This award was presented to Morgana Ribas, MacDermid Alpha Electronics Solutions

This award recognizes members who have provided outstanding support and leadership to the SMTA’s international members, chapters, or educational programs. The recipient selected for this award is Morgana Ribas, MacDermid Alpha Electronics Solutions. Morgana has been a prominent leader in the SMTA India – Bangalore Chapter for several years as well as supporting association activities globally.

◆ EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD◆

This award was presented to Jeff Schake, ASM Assembly Systems

Jeff Schake joined SMTA in 2004 with regular participation in technical activities and committees over the years. Jeff has diligently supported his local Empire (NY) Chapter in a leadership role since 2016, becoming chapter president in 2019. His efforts have significantly improved the engagement of members within their chapter as well as at a global level.

◆ EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD◆

This award was presented to Sherry Stepp, KYZEN Corporation.

Sherry Stepp has been an advocate for the SMTA on a national, international, and most recently at the local level. Since she joined SMTA in 2009 Sherry has been an important voice with the Marcom Committee, the Women’s Leadership Program, and the Expos Committee. Since 2020 she took on leadership roles with her local Huntsville chapter, first as President and most recently as VP of Membership.
This award was presented to Emily Williams.

The 2022 recipient, Emily Williams, has been selected by the SMTA Awards Committee for her committed leadership in the SMTA Community. Emily is currently enrolled in the Micro Electromechanical Systems (MEMS) program at Lorain County Community College. She holds the Student Leader role for the SMTA Ohio Valley Chapter, serving as an advocate for local college students. Upon completion of her studies, Emily would like to work as a professional researcher at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, where she could contribute towards the advancement of technology in various fields of research.
Dudi Amir, Ph.D. (2020 -2023)  
Intel Corporation

Raiyo Aspandiar, Ph.D. (2020 -2023)  
Intel Corporation

Charles Bauer, Ph.D. (2020 - 2023)  
TechLead Corporation

Keith Bryant (2022 - 2024)  
KB Consultancy

Debbie Carboni, (2022 - 2024)  
KYZEN Corporation

Bev Christian, Ph.D. (2020 - 2025)  
HDPUG

Richard Coyle (2020 - 2025)  
Nokia Bell

James Hall (2019 - 2023)  
ITM Consulting

Jeff Kennedy (2019 - 2023)  
ZESTRON Corporation

Mei Ming Khaw (2022-2024)  
Keysight Technologies

Greg Kloiber (2020 - 2023)  
Ducommun, Inc.

Ronald Lasky, Ph.D., P.E. (2022 - 2024)  
Indium Corporation

Luu Nguyen, Ph.D. (2022-2024)  
PSI Quantum

David Raby (2022-2024)  
STI Electronics, Inc.

Tom Rovere (2022-2025)  
Lockheed Martin

Jeff Schake (2022-2025)  
ASM Assembly Systems

Sherry Stepp (2022-2025)  
KYZEN Corporation

Tanya Martin (Non-Voting)  
SMTA