URISA’s Leadership Development Committee selects the Young Professional of the Year to recognize outstanding contributions as part of URISA’s Vanguard Cabinet.

The Vanguard Cabinet (VC) is a URISA initiative which debuted in 2011 to engage young GIS practitioners (35 and under), increase their numbers in the organization, and better understand the concerns facing these future leaders of the GIS community. The Cabinet’s mission is to collaborate with URISA’s Board of Directors and Committees in creating and promoting programs and policies of benefit to young professionals. Comprised entirely of passionate young members selected from different geospatial disciplines, the Cabinet aims to position URISA as the center of opportunities for creative young professionals who are committed to improving URISA and the geospatial profession via innovation, collaboration, networking, and professional development.

Past Recipients

2023: Sara Thompson
2022: Megan Young & Sid Pandey
2021: Haley Zehentbauer
2020: Alex Lopez-Rogina & Christina Brunsvold
2019: Rachel (Rodriguez) Marquez
2018: Tory Elmore
2017: Kara Utter
2016: Daniel Behnke
2015: Kari (Chael) Leer
2014: Wendy Peloquin
2013: Ryan Bowe
2012: Diana Rodriguez
2011: Ashley Hitt