



Entrepreneurial Spirit Award

This award is designed to celebrate the value of entrepreneurship and innovation across the University community. This award is presented to an individual who demonstrates a commitment to business and economic development. The contribution and leadership of this individual was a catalyst for job creation, smart growth/development, or economic improvement in their community. This individual embodies the entrepreneurial spirit and innovative thinking.

Award Qualifications:

Nominees may be a graduate student, undergraduate student, alumni or any University supporter within the community. University of Minnesota faculty and staff are not eligible.

Award Criteria:

Decisions will be based on nominee's success as an entrepreneur that occurred between June 1, 2022 and May 23, 2023 and includes:

- Nominee must have played a primary role in creating, sustaining and/or developing a new business enterprise or have turned around or significantly grown an existing business enterprise. The business must be continuing to grow or maintain success within the specific time period.
- Nominee must occupy a senior executive position (e.g., president, founder, CEO, partner, etc.) in the business and have demonstrated significant successful performance at this level.
- The nominee's company must be financially successful and have a strong reputation for sound business ethics and management practices.
- Nominee has demonstrated entrepreneurial impact on their profession and/or the community in which they are active.
- Nominee should be a respected leader in the industry and/or community, as demonstrated by involvement in industry, community, and service organizations and/or activities.
- Nominee has demonstrated involvement with the University through involvement in recruiting, student education, alumni activities, volunteer service, or other activities.

Nomination Requirements:

- Entrepreneurial Spirit Award Nomination Form of no more than five pages total. **Must be in Word or PDF format.** (Note: submissions typed on another document and/or over the five page limit will not be considered.)
- A Letter of Recommendation that meets the following requirements:

- No more than one page in length (note: submissions over the one page limit will not be considered);
 - Describes how length of time and context (in what capacity) the writer has known the nominee;
 - Describes the nominee's outstanding contributions and entrepreneurial success have supported the University of Minnesota and/or the UMAA between June 1, 2022 and May 23, 2023. Provides specific examples and measurements of how the nominee demonstrated extraordinary effort and success;
 - **Must be in PDF format.**
- All nomination **materials must be submitted to Brittany Jamison via email (jami0053@umn.edu) by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.**