

**AGB John W. Nason Award for Board Leadership Application**  
**Applications are due by August 4, 2025.**

Named in honor of higher education leader John W. Nason, this award celebrates governing boards that demonstrate exceptional leadership, especially during moments of complexity and challenge. The boards AGB selects for the Nason Award are strategic stewards, courageous decision-makers, and mission-driven collaborators who advance their institutions in meaningful and lasting ways.

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**Instructions**

This application is designed to provide insight into examples of exceptional board leadership and how that leadership has impacted the institution and/or foundation served.

Please be candid and provide a detailed description of the contexts in which the board was working, the challenges and opportunities the board addressed, and specific roles individual board leaders, committees, and the board as a whole played, highlighting how the board exemplified the highest ideals of trusteeship. AGB will not publish information shared in the application without prior approval from the individuals submitting the nomination. AGB will collaborate with award recipients to develop a *Trusteeship* magazine article and explore their insights with our members.

**Please submit responses in a single PDF, not exceeding six pages (excluding optional appendices).** AGB welcomes charts, data, or media coverage as supplemental materials.

Applicants are encouraged to address the topics outlined below. **Applicants need not address every one of the bulleted questions.**

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**SECTION 1: Board and Institution Overview**

1. **Institution name**
2. **Institution type:** ☐ Public ☐ Private ☐ Foundation
3. **Brief description of the institution (mission, size, context)**
4. **Board name (e.g., Board of Trustees)**
5. **Primary contact for this submission (name, title, email, and phone number)**

## **SECTION 2: Defining the Moment**

### **What defining moment called your board to action?**

Describe the specific challenges or opportunities that the board was confronting and other contexts, providing insights into the board's leadership and its impact.

- What made this moment particularly complex or difficult to navigate?
  - What was at stake for the institution or foundation and the constituents served by the institution (and foundation if applicable)?
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## **SECTION 3: Governing with Purpose**

### **What did the board do that exemplifies principles of trusteeship?**

- What did the board do that was distinctively bold or strategic?
  - What actions did the board take that demonstrate foresight or courage?
  - How did the work for which the board is being nominated go above and beyond what would normally be expected of a board?
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## **SECTION 4: Culture and Collaboration**

### **How did the board collaborate with the president/CEO and campus community?**

- What values or principles guided the board and its governance choices?
  - How did the board embrace the full scope of its responsibilities, respect the difference between board and administration roles, and appropriately engage stakeholders?
  - Did the board adapt its own governance practices or norms to provide the needed leadership?
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## **SECTION 5: Demonstrable Impact**

### **What difference did the board's leadership make?**

- What are the most significant results of the board's leadership? What are the specific (qualitative or quantitative) indicators of impact?

- How is the institution (or foundation) stronger today because of board leadership?
  - How has the governance and leadership capacity of the board itself been strengthened?
  - Has the board's leadership served as an example for other institutions/foundations in your sector?
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## SECTION 6: Lessons and Legacy

### What should other boards learn from your example?

- What were the most significant challenges the board encountered?
  - What insights or lessons would you share with other institutions?
  - What insights or lessons would you share with other board leaders?
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## SECTION 7: Optional Supporting Materials

You may attach up to **three pages of supporting documentation** that strengthen your narrative (e.g., excerpts from board resolutions, strategic plans, media coverage, impact data, or testimonials).

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## Evaluation Criteria

Judges will evaluate submissions based on:

- **Strategic relevance** of the board's leadership.
- **Degree to which the board's work and leadership exemplify principles of trusteeship.**
- **Inclusiveness and collaboration.**
- **Clear, demonstrable impact on the institution or foundation.**
- **Value as an example** for other boards, institutions, or foundations.

If you have questions about the application process, please contact [awards@AGB.org](mailto:awards@AGB.org).