

For professional staff who are linchpins for board effectiveness.

Now more than ever, we need boards that provide effective, thoughtful, and courageous oversight that advances their institutions in ways that truly matter. The Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, with essential guidance from our Board Professionals Leadership Group, seeks to recognize higher education board professionals whose work has resulted in heightened board performance.

Instructions

Please be detailed and candid in answering the prompts below. 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 Trusteeship articles and other content describing the excellence recognized by the award.

Please submit responses in a single PDF, not exceeding three pages, excluding optional appendices. Charts, data, or media coverage are welcome as supplemental materials.

If you have questions about the application process, please contact awards@agb.org.

SECTION 1: Submission Information

1. Institution

- 1. Institution Name:**
- 2. Institution Type:** ☐ Public ☐ Private ☐ Foundation
- 3. Brief description of the institution (mission, size, context):**

2. Nominee

- 1. Full name of board professional nominee:**
- 2. Full position title (e.g. “special liaison to the board”)**
- 3. Contact email address for nominee:**
- 4. Contact phone number for nominee:**

3. Nominator (primary contact/person preparing this submission – if not self)

- 1. Relation to nominee (i.e. self, supervisor, third party [specify])**
- 2. Full name of nominator:**

3. **Contact email address for nominator:**
 4. **Contact phone number for nominator:**
 4. **Nominee's supervisor:**
 1. **Job title:**
 2. **Full name of supervisor:**
 3. **Contact email address for supervisor:**
 4. **Contact phone number for supervisor:**
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SECTION 2: Nomination

The selection committee for the Distinguished Board Professional Award seeks to recognize higher education board professionals whose work has resulted in heightened board performance. The goal is to raise up an awardee's story for wider attention as exemplary of the profession's highest heights.

Criteria considered by the selection committee may include:

- Significant contributions to the profession
- Exemplary service to the institution and its governing board
- Leadership in the area of board operations in support of consequential board governance
- Extraordinary counsel to board leadership and/or senior staff
- Actions enabling the board to constructively reimagine its focus and/or role

Please address the following prompts in a written narrative, with consideration of the award criteria. **Total length of the cumulative written narrative should not exceed three typed pages.**

1. **In brief, why should this nominee be considered for the 2026 Distinguished Board Professional Award?**
2. **What are the actions for which this nominee should be recognized?**
3. **What resulted from the nominee's actions?**
4. **Please explain the strategic importance of the work you have outlined.**
5. **What about this story might be instructive or inspirational to others in the profession and/or in the higher education sphere more generally?**
6. **What else should the selection committee know to make a fully informed decision regarding this nomination?**

SECTION 3: Optional Supporting Materials

You may attach up to **2 pages of supporting documentation** that strengthen your narrative (e.g., excerpts from board resolutions, strategic plans, media stories, impact data, or testimonials).