



2020 TORCHBEARER AWARDS

NOMINATION PACKET

INDIANA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
100 NORTH SENATE AVENUE, ROOM N300
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204
INFO@ICW.IN.GOV
WWW.IN.GOV/ICW

NOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) is seeking nominations for recipients of the **2020 Torchbearer Awards**. The Torchbearer Awards are the State of Indiana's most prestigious recognition of women and will be announced September 23, 2020, at a special ceremony.

Sponsored and hosted by the Indiana Commission for Women's Board of Commissioners, the *2020 Torchbearer Awards Ceremony* is the only program in which the State of Indiana recognizes and honors her finest resource—the women of Indiana. Indiana Torchbearers are those women who have stepped forward in all areas of society to carry the light for women. They have led the way for others by breaking down barriers to women's full participation and have become true beacons of light by overcoming challenges that all women face with courage, perseverance and compassion and by creating lasting legacies that serve as an inspiration for all.

Please help us by nominating a deserving woman. Any living individual over the age of 18 is eligible. To submit your nomination online, email the completed form to info@icw.in.gov.

All Printed copy entries and electronically submitted nomination forms are due on or before **Wednesday, July 15, 2020**, at 5:00 pm.

Thank you for helping the Indiana Commission for Women to celebrate Indiana's finest resource – the women of Indiana.

ABOUT THE INDIANA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

The Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) is a state-level commission committed to the full participation of women in all aspects of society in order to live, work and raise a family. ICW works to ***move Indiana women forward*** by understanding the needs of Indiana women and their families and by working strategically both within government and in our communities to help bring about positive solutions. ICW works to remove barriers that hinder women's participation by increasing awareness of the status of women and their families and the issues they face; recognizing and promoting the contributions that Hoosier women make to their community, state and nation, and providing balanced analysis of public policy issues that impact women in Indiana.

The Torchbearer Awards were established to recognize and promote the contributions made by Indiana women to their community, state and nation. By hosting the Torchbearer Awards, the Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) fulfills one of its four strategic goals outlined in its 2008-2010 Strategic Plan as well as its mandate as outlined in Indiana Code IC 4-23-25-7 (4). Since 2004 the ICW commissioners and staff have held the annual Torchbearer Awards to honor the many Hoosier women who have overcome or removed barriers to equality or to whose achievements have contributed to making our state a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

While there are a number of award programs which honor women, this is the only such event in which the state of Indiana recognizes and honors its finest natural resource – the women of Indiana. The statue, Victory, from atop the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument, was the image selected to represent the Torchbearer Awards. Victory is symbolic of the character and achievements of the women honored, and the flame she holds represents the light our Torchbearers have brought to our state and their communities.

For more information, go to: <https://www.in.gov/icw/2334.htm>.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Please read carefully. The Council of Judges will consider adherence to these guidelines and procedures when evaluating nominations.

Eligibility

Recipients will be selected from a pool of nominated candidates who have demonstrated that they have led the way for other women or have overcome obstacles to make great accomplishments. They are women who have been pioneers in their industries, have inspirational stories that set the standard for other women, have faced tough choices, demonstrated character and have made significant contributions to their communities or to the State of Indiana.

Special consideration will be made for a woman with great leadership and contributions and has demonstrated true commitment to women’s progress and extraordinary achievements over the course of her lifetime.

Selection will be based on the recipients’ demonstrated achievement in the areas of their professional careers, community leadership and/or public service. Recipients must be living at the time of their nomination. Nominations will be evaluated with considerable attention given to those women who have been pioneers, have removed barriers and/or have made a considerable impact to the advancement of women in Indiana. In addition, attention will be made to achieve geographic diversity. *Current members of the Indiana Commission for Women Board are ineligible.*

Requirements

- Nominations should be made by corporations, organizations, institutions, associations or individuals and are **limited to one nomination per group/person**. Nominations may be made from organizational divisions and/or regional campuses of institutions.
- Nominee must be a resident of the State of Indiana. (If the nominee is currently living outside of Indiana because of a temporary commitment, nominee must show intent to return to the state.)
- Nominee has made an important and noticeable contribution to her community or to the state of Indiana by:
 - Making such a contribution under challenging circumstances;
 - Setting an example for other Hoosier women and families to affect change for the better; and
 - Leading the way to making Indiana a better place in which to live, work, and raise a family by removing social/economic/equality barriers.

- Nominators **must** provide:
 - Completed nomination form with all questions answered.
 - Biography (up to 200 words).
- Nominators **may** provide:
 - List of nominee's special honors, awards, special interests, professional affiliations, offices held, professional achievements, and volunteer experience; and/or
 - Testimonials or quotes from women who have actually been helped by the nominee.

HELPFUL HINTS

- The nomination application must be completed in full. Do not enclose the application in a folder or binder.
- A Council of Judges made up of community, government and corporate leaders as well as previous Torchbearer Award recipients will make selections of semi-finalists and honorees. Their decision is final. All nomination forms and supplementary information become the property of the Council of Judges and cannot be returned.
- You may answer questions on a computer-generated duplicate, photocopied form or additional pages. Be sure to identify your nominee on each additional page.
- Answer all questions. Be concise but thorough (Hint: be sure to take time to check spelling and grammar.)
- Focus on the nominee's areas of greatest impact to the advancement of women.
- Provide sufficient background information. Nominators should not assume that the judges know anything about the candidate.
- Please restate the entire question being answered on subsequent pages.
- Short, personal testimonials are helpful to the selection process and are encouraged. Any supplemental information should support, not restate, what has already been written. Do not enclose videotapes, scrapbooks and other non-printed materials as they will not be returned. **Please keep any supplemental information to five (5) pages only.**
- All information provided will be verified by the Council of Judges and/or ICW staff.
- Please only submit the nomination form and any supplemental information. Please remove the first four pages of this nominations packet.
- Submit the nomination form electronically to info@icw.in.gov or by mail to:

Torchbearer Awards Nominations
 c/o Indiana Commission for Women
 100 North Senate Avenue, Room N300
 Indianapolis, IN 46204

NOMINATION FORM

Step 1 – Nominee Information

Nominee's Name: _____ Self-Employed? Yes No

Title: _____ Organization: _____

Work Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Step 2 – Organization Submitting the Nomination

Organization: _____

Contact Person Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Step 3 - Signatures of Nominating Organization

Nominator: _____

Additional Organizational Representative: _____

How did you hear about the Torchbearer Awards?

TV Newspaper Past Honoree Friend ICW Board Member Mailing

Other (Please specify) _____

Disclaimer: All decisions made by the Council of Judges are final. Selection of torchbearers should not be considered an endorsement of or promotion by the Indiana Commission for Women. Comments and opinions expressed are strictly those of the recipients and their nominees and not those of the Indiana Commission for Women, the State of Indiana, or its partners and supporters. The Indiana Commission for Women does not assume any legal liability of or responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the nomination packet.

Step 4 – Nomination Criteria

Please answer the following questions thoroughly about the nominee by typing two to three paragraphs for each of the questions below. The Indiana Commission for Women and Council of Judges appreciate all of the information you submit and request that you provide as much information as concisely as possible. Please keep each response to approximately 500 words.

Torchbearers are women who have overcome obstacles to make great accomplishments, led the way for other women by breaking down barriers, or are true beacons of light by overcoming challenges that all women face with courage, perseverance and compassion.

Question 1: Explain how the personal and professional achievements made by the nominee have made Indiana a better place in which to live, work and raise a family by removing barriers to equality.

Question 2: How have these achievements specifically impacted or inspired women? Focus on how the nominee is a pioneer in her industry, repeatedly demonstrated character, has an inspirational story, and/or has made significant contributions to her community or the state of Indiana.

Question 3: Highlight any challenging obstacles the nominee has faced and successfully overcome and how they have been inspiration to women. .

*Please feel free to attach any optional materials to this page.
Please do not exceed 5 pages of additional material.*

Step 5 – Nomination Submission

Please mail completed information and materials to:

2020 Torchbearer Awards Nominations
c/o Indiana Commission for Women
100 North Senate Avenue, Room N300
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Nomination must be received by 5:00 pm on July 15, 2020