



2026 Emerging Leader of the Year

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Northern Illinois University

The **Emerging Leader of the Year Award** is designed to honor a female professional in the early stages of her career. The honoree should exhibit leadership skills, a commitment to professional growth and contribute positively to her team and/or organization. This individual should be hard-working, passionate and eager to learn. Nominations may be self-submitted or submitted by another person/organization.

To be considered for this honor, an individual must be within ten years of starting her full-time professional work. (Work does not need to be consecutive in years, roles or organizations.)

The award will be presented at the Women-in-Business Luncheon as part of **Pow(H)er 2026** at Embassy Suites by Hilton Rockford Riverfront & Rockford Conference Center.

Entry Process

- May be self-nominated or nominated by another person
- Prepare a written submission that addresses the following:
 1. **Nominee's name, place of work, title, email address and phone number**
 2. **Nominator's name, place of work, title, email address and phone number**
 3. **Start With Why**
It's often said less is more. In a quick 250-word summary, share *why* your nominee should be named Emerging Leader of Year.
 4. **Leadership Skills**
Describe the nominee's skills as a leader, both formally and informally. What makes her an outstanding woman to follow? In what ways do others look to her for guidance and leadership? What leadership skills will contribute to her future success?
 5. **Professional Growth**
In what ways does the nominee continually strive for professional growth? How does this candidate continually learn & grow? What sort of career trajectory & organizational impact potential does the candidate potentially have?
 6. **Contributions to Team/Organization**
Describe the candidate's contributions to her organization or team's success.
- Letters of recommendation will be accepted & considered but are not required.

Once you have finalized your submission, please email to: nominations@rockfordchamber.com

Nominations must be received by noon on October 2, 2026, by Noon.

To register for the Women-In-Business Luncheon, please visit rockfordchamber.com.

Please note: all attendees, including honorees, will need to register for the event.