



2026 Excellence in Leadership Award

Sponsored by:

Edward Jones



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The **Excellence in Leadership Award** (*formally Woman Manager of the Year*) is designed to honor a female professional in a leadership role within her organization. Honorees should contribute positively to their organization's success, effectively lead their team(s), and continually work to grow personally & professionally. Nominations may be self-submitted or submitted by another person/organization.

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

- 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 receive the Excellence in Leadership Award.
 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? How does she motivate her team and encourage their personal growth? How does she support other women in business?
 5. **Professional Growth**
In what ways does the nominee continually strive for professional growth and how does she demonstrate personal growth? How does this nominee continually adapt & improve her leadership skills? How does she see her career developing in the next three to five years? How does she give back to her profession?
 6. **Organization Success**
How does this person use her talents to contribute positively to her organization's success? How does she drive results? Describe some of her career achievements to date.
- 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.