

INDIANA RESTAURANT  LODGING ASSOCIATION

Stars of the Industry 2025

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025
JW MARRIOTT INDIANAPOLIS DOWNTOWN

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

NOMINATE YOUR STAFF AT
INRLA.AWARDSPLATFORM.COM OR VIA
THE QR CODE.



LEARN MORE ABOUT SPONSORSHIP +
TICKETS AT INRLA.ORG

STARS OF THE INDUSTRY

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

GOLD SPONSOR

\$3,500

- 1 Full Table (10 Tickets)
- Sponsorship Recognition on all event marketing (digital + print)
- Company logo on media screens at event
- Full page, color ad in the event program

SILVER SPONSOR

\$2,500

- 1/2 Full Table (5 Tickets)
- Sponsorship Recognition on all event marketing (digital + print)
- Company logo on media screens at event
- 1/2 page, color ad in the event program

AWARD SPONSOR

\$3,000

- Half Table (5 Tickets)
- Logo printed on Nominee Certificates
- Representative on stage to hand out awards with our CEO
- Ability to run nominee check in table
- Company logo on media screens
- 1/2 page, color ad in the event program

BRONZE SPONSOR

\$1,350

- 2 Tickets
- Sponsorship Recognition on all event marketing (digital + print)
- Company logo on media screens at event
- 1/4 page, color ad in the event program

TICKETS

One Table (10 Tickets) • **\$1,275**

Half Table (5 Tickets) • **\$700**

Individual Ticket • **\$175**

LEARN MORE + REGISTER AT INRLA.ORG
OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE.

HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?
CONTACT JAIRO RUIZ
AT JRUIZ@INRLA.ORG



STARS OF THE INDUSTRY NOMINATIONS & AWARDS

AWARDS CRITERIA

1. Nominees may be an individual, a team or a partnership with one or more foodservice/lodging business operations, and an InRLA Member.
2. Each area of the nomination form must be completed for the nominee to be considered.
3. All recipients are strongly encouraged to attend the Stars of the Industry Awards Celebration event on Wednesday, October 29.

Reminder: There is no limit to the number of individuals nominated per business, and self-nominations are allowed!

CATEGORIES:

- RESTAURANT MANAGER OF THE YEAR (5 UNITS OR MORE)
 - RESTAURANT MANAGER OF THE YEAR (4 UNITS OR LESS)
 - RESTAURANT HEART OF THE HOUSE AWARD
 - RESTAURANT FRONT OF HOUSE AWARD
 - LODGING MANAGER OF THE YEAR (MORE THAN 100 ROOMS)
 - LODGING MANAGER OF THE YEAR (100 ROOMS OR LESS)
 - LODGING HEART OF THE HOUSE AWARD
 - LODGING FRONT OF HOUSE AWARD
 - EVENT PLANNER OF THE YEAR
 - RISING STAR AWARD
 - HOSPITALITY SUPPORTING ROLE OF THE YEAR
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NOMINATE:

More details about each category is on the following pages.
You can submit nominations or the QR code.

Nominations are due by Friday, Oct 10.



STARS OF THE INDUSTRY NOMINATIONS & AWARDS

CATEGORIES:

RESTAURANT MANAGER OF THE YEAR: (5 UNITS OR MORE)

This award recognizes a top-of-class restaurant management employee in all areas of the role, including a stellar report with guests, staff, and the community. Nominate a manager that has exemplary operational performance, terrific customer service, and a person that goes beyond typical job duties.

NOMINEE MUST WORK FOR A RESTAURANT GROUP THAT HAS FIVE (5) UNITS OR MORE.

RESTAURANT MANAGER OF THE YEAR: (4 UNITS OR LESS)

This award recognizes a top-of-class restaurant management employee in all areas of the role, including a stellar report with guests, staff, and the community. Nominate a manager that has exemplary operational performance, terrific customer service, and a person that goes beyond typical job duties.

NOMINEE MUST WORK FOR A RESTAURANT GROUP THAT HAS FOUR (4) UNITS OR LESS.

RESTAURANT HEART OF THE HOUSE AWARD

This award recognizes chefs, sous chefs, or line cooks who apply creativity and innovative techniques to their exploration of regional, national, and international cuisine to the delight of guests. It recognizes exemplary performance and exceptional service by an employee in a non-management position who does not have regular customer contact. Nominate a member of the kitchen team that goes beyond the call of duty.

RESTAURANT FRONT OF THE HOUSE AWARD

This award recognizes exemplary performance and exceptional service by an employee in a non-management position who has regular customer contact. For example: hosts, servers, bartenders, and positions who are guest facing. Nominate a member of the front of the house that goes beyond the call of duty.

STARS OF THE INDUSTRY NOMINATIONS & AWARDS

CATEGORIES:

LODGING MANAGER OF THE YEAR (MORE THAN 100 ROOMS)

The finest hoteliers see the big picture while also looking after all the small details that make their vision a reality. These individuals have risen through the ranks and come to exemplify all the best attributes of our industry. They are managers who reach out to guests, inspire employees and extend themselves to the broader community.

NOMINEE MUST WORK FOR A HOTEL OR LODGING GROUP THAT HAS MORE THAN 100 ROOMS.

LODGING MANAGER OF THE YEAR (100 ROOMS OR LESS)

The finest hoteliers see the big picture while also looking after all the small details that make their vision a reality. These individuals have risen through the ranks and come to exemplify all the best attributes of our industry. They are managers who reach out to guests, inspire employees and extend themselves to the broader community.

NOMINEE MUST WORK FOR A HOTEL OR LODGING GROUP THAT HAS 100 ROOMS OR LESS.

LODGING HEART OF THE HOUSE AWARD

This award recognizes employees who leave lasting impressions on your guests face to face or behind the scenes. For example: front desk agents, housekeeping, maintenance technicians, and guest relations employees. Nominate an employee in a non-management position who leads by example and is always willing to go above and beyond.

LODGING FRONT OF HOUSE AWARD

This award recognizes exemplary performance and exceptional service by an employee in a non-management position who has regular customer contact. For example, front desk agents, bellmen, guest relations and positions who are guest facing. Nominate a member of the front of the house that goes beyond the call of duty.

STARS OF THE INDUSTRY NOMINATIONS & AWARDS

CATEGORIES:

EVENT PLANNER OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes an exemplary event planner in either the restaurant or lodging industry. Nominate an event planner that goes above and beyond their job description to ensure the client has the best experience possible.

RISING STAR AWARD

Show your appreciation for an emerging leader in the hospitality industry; one who demonstrates ongoing exceptional growth in the culinary or hospitality industry fields; this person displays notable industry involvement and strong leadership potential.

NOMINEE MUST BE WORKING IN THE INDUSTRY FOR LESS THAN 3 YEARS.

HOSPITALITY SUPPORTING ROLE OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes the employees behind the scenes who go above and beyond to support the restaurants. Such as HR, IT, Accounting, Facilities, Marketing, etc.

STARS OF THE INDUSTRY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS STARS OF THE INDUSTRY?

Stars of the Industry is an annual Indiana Restaurant and Lodging Association (INRLA) event to celebrate our members throughout Indiana and recognize the people who are going above and beyond in their role.

IS THIS JUST FOR CENTRAL INDIANA MEMBERS?

No! We recognize all of our members throughout the state. Please nominate any team members working in Indiana that you feel are deserving and join us in Indy for the event!

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN I NOMINATE?

There is no limit on the number of employees you can nominate from your business or a limit on number of categories you can nominate for. Please recognize any staff you feel is deserving. You can also nominate multiple employees for the same category.

WHY ARE SOME CATEGORIES SEPARATED BY SIZE OR INDUSTRY?

Our goal is to make sure that businesses aren't self-limiting their nominations and that there is an even playing field for smaller business versus larger ownership groups. Some awards are specific to industry so that we can allow more recognition.

WHAT TIME IS THE EVENT? WILL THERE BE FOOD AND DRINKS?

We will have a cocktail hour at 5:30, with the program starting at 6:30pm. Dinner is included with your ticket, as well as access to our open bar.

WHAT IS THE DRESS CODE FOR STARS OF THE INDUSTRY?

The dress code is business/cocktail attire. We know some attendees will be coming from work, and others want to take the chance to dress up. The most important thing to us is that you are comfortable and enjoy the night.

HOW DOES JUDGING WORK?

Nominations are reviewed by a committee made up of INRLA Board Members, sponsors, and allied partners. Each committee member selects who they think is the winner of the category. We use a blind judging process, so we take out any distinguishing information about the person and the company from the nominations before they are reviewed.

HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS? CONTACT JAIRO RUIZ
AT JRUIZ@INRLA.ORG