



Technology Corporate Awards: Recognizes technology companies for innovation, impact and growth.

Applicants must be a technology company that is either headquartered in NC or has a significant presence in the state.

- **Industry Driven - AgTech:** A technology company that has developed a software and hardware solution that is disrupting and innovating the field of agriculture, farming and/or food production.
- **Industry Driven – Fin Tech:** A technology company that has developed a software or hardware solution that is disrupting the field of financial services such as blockchain, customer support, digital banking, fraud protection, insurance, investments, lending, payments and personal finance.
- **Industry Driven – Ed Tech:** A technology company that has developed a software or hardware solution to improve education outcomes such as administrative tools, collaboration, communication, curriculum, digital/e-learning, gaming, learning analytics, professional development or testing.
- **Industry Driven – Healthcare Tech:** A technology company that has developed a software or hardware solution to improve healthcare outcomes such as 3D printing, analytics, electronic medical records, genomics, mobile apps, robotics, tele-health, virtual reality and wearables.
- **Industry Driven – Clean/Environmental Tech:** A technology company that has developed a software or hardware solution that is disrupting the future of green energy and clean tech such as solar, water, wind, energy efficiency, energy storage, recycling, transportation, smart cities and transportation.
- **NC HQ Tech Company:** A technology company headquartered in North Carolina with outstanding performance in revenue, product innovation, market penetration, sales growth and employment expansion.
- **Software:** A software technology company that has demonstrated strong performance and/or achieved a milestone of notable success over the past year (e.g. increased revenue, employee growth, product launch or recognition, etc.).
- **Top Ten (10) Startups to Watch:** A technology startup founded in NC within the past four years that has demonstrated a foundation for success (e.g. funding, product development, customer acquisition, etc.).
- **Best Tech Company to Work:** A technology company with satisfied workers... AND solid values, great leadership, best perks, competitive salaries, community service and fabulous workspaces.
- **Diversity, Equity + Inclusion:** A technology company that has made significant contributions to equal employment or heightened awareness and sensitivity to diversity in hiring, professional development, workplace inclusion, employee support, etc.

Innovative Use of Technology Awards: Recognizes companies, organizations and institutions for their innovative use of technology.

Applicants can be any company, organization or institution that is either headquartered in NC or has a significant presence in the state. (Must clearly state the use of technology and provide insight on the impact.)

- **Analytics + Big Data:** A company, organization or institution that has utilized analytics and/or big data to significantly improve what they do and how they do it (e.g. internal operations, customer engagement, product development, etc.).
- **Artificial Intelligence + Machine Learning:** A company, organization or institution that has developed or implemented an AI/Machine Learning product or solution that adds increased efficiency or enhanced value to clients or customers.
- **Cyber Security:** A company, organization or institution that has developed or implemented an innovative product or solution to detect, mitigate or contain cyber breaches or attacks.
- **Tech for Good:** A company, organization or institution that has utilized technology to help make the world a better place to live and learn (examples of impact can be broad or for a special population) and to improve quality of life for citizens.
- **Digital Transformation:** A company, organization or institution that has utilized technology to improve customer or employee engagement by adopting digital solutions and innovations to improve outcomes, efficiency and effectiveness.
- **Public Sector Project:** A government, education or public entity that has utilized technology tools to execute a project that delivers value, efficiency and ease of use for for students or citizens.

Individual Awards: Recognizes executives and stakeholders for their accomplishments and/or impact in the tech sector.

Applicants must be based in and/or have made a positive impact in NC. Their employer should be headquartered or have a significant presence in the state.

Tech Executive of the Year: Founder/CEO/Site Leader who has achieved a significant milestone within the past year (e.g. taken a company public/private, led a merger/acquisition, significantly boosted a company's presence in the state, authored a book, etc.)

Private Sector CIO of the Year

A CIO or equivalent who has primary IT leadership responsibility within his/her organization in the private sector, and demonstrated leadership, driven innovation, and delivered value to their organization (e.g. revamped IT organization, contributed to employer's mission/profit/efficiency in a major way, etc.)

Public Sector CIO of the Year

A CIO or equivalent who has primary IT leadership responsibility within his/her organization in the public sector, and who has demonstrated leadership, driven innovation, and delivered value to their organization (e.g. revamped IT organization, contributed to employer's mission/profit/efficiency in a major way, etc.)

Chief Information Security Officer of the Year

A CISO or equivalent who has primary IT Security leadership responsibility within his/her organization and demonstrated leadership, driven innovation, and delivered value to their organization by establishing and maintaining the enterprise vision, strategy, and program to ensure information assets and technologies are adequately protected.

Tech Educator of the Year

An individual (e.g. teacher, administrator, counselor, etc.) who has demonstrated innovation and effectiveness in the use of technology to educate students, and/or has been effective in driving interest among students in pursuing technology fields

Tech Woman of the Year

A woman in technology who has made increasingly significant contributions throughout her career to her company, industry and community (e.g. reached a professional pinnacle such as being named a CXO, demonstrated track record of being a ground-breaker or visionary, inspires and mentors others, etc.)

Public Leader of the Year

A public official who has provided leadership in the use of technology to advance North Carolina, and/or has supported the innovation economy through public policy efforts.

Beacon Award (Outstanding Achievement)

An individual who over their career has helped advance the technology sector and has history of significant personal achievement. (i.e. aimed at recognizing a leader with North Carolina ties whose achievements have been statewide, national, or global)