



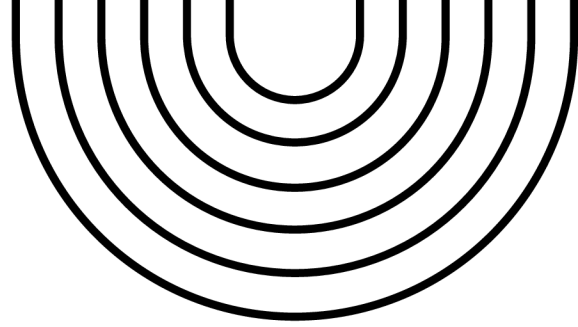
PASCO EDC

37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS



# *Nominee & Finalist Information*

# Eligibility & Important Dates



## IMPORTANT DATES:

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS	Wednesday, April 30, 2025 5:00PM
IF COMPANY IS DEEMED ELIGIBLE, COMPANY INTERVIEW FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY	Monday, May 5, 2025
IN-PERSON INTERVIEW AT YOUR BUSINESS WITH ANNUAL AWARDS COMMITTEE	June
FILMING AT YOUR BUSINESS	Week of June 23rd (A specific day will be chosen and more information will be sent out directly)
AWARDS FINALISTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A PRESS RELEASE	July
ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY AND TRADE SHOW (WINNERS ANNOUNCED DURING CEREMONY)	Thursday, September 4, 2025

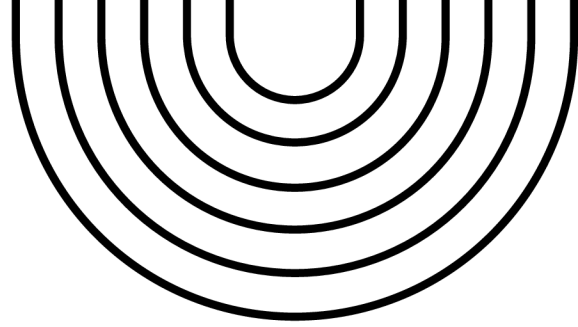
## ELIGIBILITY:

Nominees should be a "for profit" business to business company operating in Pasco County (municipalities or affiliates are excluded). Companies will be evaluated based on the timeframe of January 2024 to March 2025. (Note: winners of the past 5 years are ineligible, check page 4.)

## AWARDS PROCESS:

1. Company is must be nominated for an award by April 30, 2025
2. A pre-qualification form will be sent to all nominees to determine eligibility.
3. If a company is deemed eligible they will then need to complete a Company Interview Form
4. The nominated company will then be contacted to schedule an on-site interview with the Pasco EDC Annual Awards Committee throughout June. All finalists will be determined after completing the on-site interview with the committee.
5. Facility filming will take place the last week of June, this footage is then utilized in the Annual Awards Presentation at the event.
6. All finalists will receive two tickets to a VIP reception taking place before the main awards ceremony on Thursday, September 4, 2025 at Saddlebrook Resort where winners will be announced.

# Award Categories



## 1. Pasco Establishment Award

- a. This award will recognize a business that has recently been established in Pasco County and is demonstrating substantial progress and/or the potential for a significant community impact.

## 2. Economic Excellence Award

- a. This award will recognize a Pasco County business that has made a commitment to improving the overall economic health and quality of life in Pasco County, creating a diverse workforce, and providing exceptional value to customers, all while demonstrating ingenuity, integrity, and leadership.

## 3. International Achievement Award

- a. This award will recognize a Pasco County business that has demonstrated outstanding achievements in international relations, global leadership, or export growth.

## 4. Innovation in Workforce Development Award

- a. This award recognizes a Pasco County company or employer that has made a significant impact on workforce development in Pasco County and demonstrates a commitment to building a strong talent pipeline.

## ADDITIONAL AWARD CATEGORIES:

### 5. SMARTstart Entrepreneur of the Year (nominated internally, based on program participation)

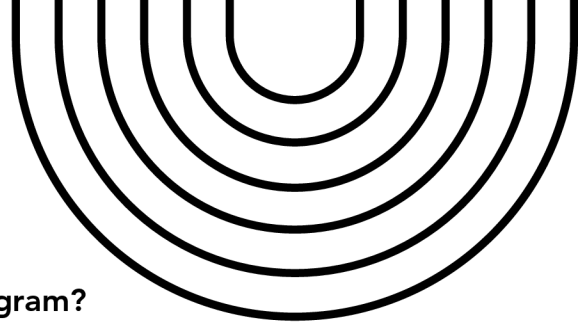
This award will recognize an entrepreneur who has engaged in numerous SMARTstart programs. Through their experiences and education, they have turned their passion into a thriving business. Nominees will be scored based on company growth, SMARTstart involvement, and community impact as a leading start-up.

### 6. Special Contribution (Used in special circumstances as determined by committee, non-profits considered) - This award recognizes a Pasco County business who has gone above and beyond their typical mission to solve an issue, create an opportunity, or provide extraordinary support in our community.

2024 Award Winners

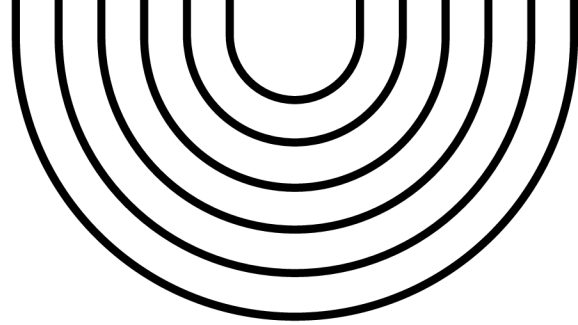


# Frequently Asked Questions



- **Is there a fee to participate in the Pasco EDC Annual Awards Program?**
  - No, there is no cost associated with being considered for an award. Each company that is deemed eligible and considered a finalist will receive two complimentary reservations to attend the event to act as a company representative. Additional company representatives can also attend for \$125 per person.
- **What does the company receive if nominated?**
  - All company finalists will be featured on the event website, two complimentary admissions to the event and a VIP reception prior to the event, company footage and name is featured an overview video at the event, winners receive an award specific video, winners are included in a post-event press release.
- **How much time does it take for the interview?**
  - Please plan for a one-hour interview at your company location with the Pasco EDC Annual Awards Committee.
- **Will the winners have to speak at the event or just accept the award?**
  - Please have one of your company guests ready to make a brief acceptance speech on stage where a professional photo will be taken.
- **Are there any future obligations for the company after the event?**
  - No, there are no additional obligations after the event on Thursday, September 4, 2025, however, we look forward to your continued support each year as a program participant.
- **How does the company know which category they are in?**
  - The company will be considered for all categories selected on the prequalification form, but these will not be publicized as companies are eligible to be considered in multiple categories.
- **How are the winners chosen?**
  - Winners are evaluated based on their responses to the Company Interview Form and their in-person interviews with the Pasco EDC Annual Awards Committee of volunteers. The committee then uses a scoring rubric based on company growth as well as additional evaluations.
- **When will the winners be announced?**
  - All winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on Thursday, September 4, 2025 at Saddlebrook Resort.
- **What is the filming for?**
  - Each award finalist will be featured in an introduction video to the awards program. Also, each winner will be announced in a short video which will highlight their company and recent achievements.
  - There will be no audio captured during the filming and we will just be capturing background footage of company operations. Proprietary areas can be noted and will not be filmed.
- **Can the finalist's location be filmed a different date?**
  - No, there is a strict recording schedule and companies must allow the video crew access to the facility on the date given for approximately 20 minutes during the assigned window or we will not be able to capture professional footage and your company can provide us with any images or b-roll to use.
- **Can award finalists participate in the trade show?**
  - The trade show is based on sponsorship levels. Any sponsors silver level and above are able to participate in the trade show and will also receive additional sponsor benefits.

# Previous Award Winners



*2019*

**BUSINESS OF THE YEAR – SMALL  
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR – MEDIUM  
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR –LARGE  
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR – START UP  
SPECIAL RECONITION  
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION  
LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Design & Construction Innovations, LLC  
Millian-Aire Enterprises Corp.  
Welbilt, Inc.  
The Point Distillery  
Medical Center of Trinity  
AdventHealth Wesley Chapel  
Dr. James P. Gills

*2020* No event – COVID 19 pandemic

*2021*

**EXPANSION PROJECT OF THE YEAR  
RELOCATION PROJECT OF THE  
YEAR LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Soule Company  
Santander Consumer USA  
Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, Jr.

*2022*

**INNOVATION IN BUSINESS AWARD  
PASCO ESTABLISHMENT AWARD  
ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD  
INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD  
SMARTSTART ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR  
LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Rasmussen University  
TouchPoint Medical, Inc.  
Santander Consumer USA  
Morganna's Alchemy, LLC  
AdventHealth  
Embrace Less Waste  
Mr. Billy E. Brown

*2023*

**PASCO ESTABLISHMENT AWARD  
ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD (SMALL)  
ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD (LARGE)  
SMARTSTART ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR  
SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
LEADERSHIP AWARD**

nfant Labs  
Florida Avenue Brewing Co.  
Global ETS, LLC (GETS-USA)  
Fraud Doctor, LLC  
AmSkills  
Mr. Ray Gadd

*2024*

**PASCO ESTABLISHMENT AWARD  
ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD (SMALL)  
ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD (LARGE)  
SMARTSTART ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR  
INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Garyline  
JTD Enterprises, Inc.  
TRU Simulation + Training  
Jon's Gourmet Nutrition  
OpenBuilds, LLC  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Phillips