EY Entrepreneur Of The Year®

Does your ambition shape the extraordinary?

Recognizing the entrepreneurs who build a confident future for us all.

The better the question. The better the answer. The better the world works.

2026 US New York program

Founded and produced by

EY Shape the future with confidence

Presented by

PNC Marsh Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

About Entrepreneur Of The Year®

A legacy of excellence

For more than four decades, EY has proudly celebrated the trailblazing leaders who are shaping the future through the world's most ground-breaking companies. With over 11,000 ambitious visionaries recognized through the Entrepreneur Of The Year award, we don't just celebrate success — we amplify it. These titans of industry form a global network of entrepreneurial excellence, setting the gold standard in innovation and leadership.

Your moment is now. **Dare to be next.**

Through Entrepreneur Of The Year, honorees have the opportunity to accelerate their ambitions.

- **Network with the best.** Exchange valuable peer-to-peer insights and success stories.
- **Boost your brand.** Attract attention from potential partners, investors and customers.
- **Celebrate your team.** Shine a spotlight on those who have been instrumental in your success.
- **Gain exclusive access.** Participate in high-impact events that celebrate innovation.
- **Receive personalized support.** Access bespoke tools tailored to your unique growth trajectory.

Program alumni

Some past winners in our entrepreneurial community include:

- **Jeff Bezos**, Amazon.com, Inc.
- **Caryn Seidman Becker and Ken Cornick**, CLEAR
- **Jason McGowan**, Crumbl Cookies
- **Michael Dell**, Dell Computer Corporation
- **Mindy Grossman**, HSN, Inc.
- **Kendra Scott**, Kendra Scott Design, Inc.
- **Saeju Jeong**, Noom
- **Allison Ellsworth and Stephen Ellsworth**, Poppi
- **Shelly Ibach**, Sleep Number
- **Holly Thaggard and Amanda Baldwin**, Supergoop!
- **Howard Schultz**, Starbucks Coffee Company
- **Michael Happe**, Winnebago Industries
- **Jodi L. Berg**, Vita-Mix Corporation
- **Eric Yuan**, Zoom

"Entrepreneur Of The Year is the peak of legitimate, authentic and objective recognition of the entrepreneurial journey.

Brad Keywell, Uptake Technologies, Inc.
World Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2019 winner

Calling the dreamers, the doers, the shapers

Entrepreneur Of The Year isn't just an awards program; it's a year-round celebration of the entrepreneurial spirit that shapes the future.

Key dates for the 2026 program

- **December 1, 2025:** Applications open
- **February 27, 2026:** Application deadline
- **March–April 2026:** Judges review all applications; select nominees to have site visit interview with EY team and sponsor representatives.
- **April 21, 2026:** Finalists announced
- **May 12, 2026:** Finalists interview with judges
- **June 16, 2026:** Regional awards celebration
- **Early fall:** Winner and alumni event
- **November 16–19, 2026:** Strategic Growth Forum®; and national awards gala

Judging criteria

The independent panel of judges is a collective of proven leaders. Many are past winners and esteemed alumni of the program, embodying the pinnacle of entrepreneurial success.

Judges evaluate nominees on a variety of criteria, including, but not limited to:

- Entrepreneurial spirit
- Purpose
- Growth
- Impact
- Financial performance

For more information about the application process, visit ey.com/us/eoyapplicationoverview.

Eligibility requirements

The entrepreneur

- The entrepreneur must be the CEO or president of a private or public company who is primarily responsible for the recent performance of the company.
- The entrepreneur may be the original founder, a multigenerational family business leader, or a transformational CEO who is not the founder of a company or subsidiary.
- The entrepreneur must have been in the role for at least two years by the application deadline.
- Previous finalists and applicants who did not win are eligible to reapply.
- Former award winners may reapply if they have founded or transitioned to a new company.

The company

- The company must have been in business for at least two years by the application deadline.
- The company must have a minimum revenue of $10m.*
- Only for-profit businesses based in the US may apply.

* *Potential exceptions to the minimum revenue requirement include pre-revenue companies in the Life Sciences sector, as well as emerging high-growth companies that are less than five years old.*

Entrepreneurs Accelerated

At EY, we champion the visionaries who dare to dream big. Our mission is to empower entrepreneurs with the essential tools, insights and network needed to accelerate their journey and unleash their full potential. By offering bespoke programs, sharing cutting-edge knowledge and delivering unparalleled services, we are committed to sharpening the competitive edge of entrepreneurs at every stage of their company's evolution.

We invite all entrepreneurs to tap into our extensive resources tailored for trailblazers at the helm of high-growth ventures at ey.com/us/entrepreneurs and explore participation in one of our entrepreneurial programs:

- Entrepreneur Of The Year® is a global award that celebrates the spirit of innovation and honors the relentless drive of entrepreneurs who create long-term value.
- EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women™ is an elite network and executive education program designed for entrepreneurial founders poised for exponential growth.
- EY Entrepreneurs Access Network helps under-resourced business leaders transcend barriers and scale their businesses by giving them access to expertise through a 12-month immersive business accelerator program.

For more information, visit
ey.com/us/eoy/ny
or contact us at eoynewyork@ey.com.

Join the conversation!
Follow us @EY_US and use #EOYNY.

EY | Building a better working world

EY is building a better working world by creating new value for clients, people, society and the planet, while building trust in capital markets.

Enabled by data, AI and advanced technology, EY teams help clients shape the future with confidence and develop answers for the most pressing issues of today and tomorrow.

EY teams work across a full spectrum of services in assurance, consulting, tax, strategy and transactions. Fueled by sector insights, a globally connected, multi-disciplinary network and diverse ecosystem partners, EY teams can provide services in more than 150 countries and territories.

All in to shape the future with confidence.

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About Entrepreneur Of The Year®
Entrepreneur Of The Year® is the only global program of its kind that supports entrepreneurs as they unlock their ambitions. Established in 1986, this flagship program operates across more than 60 countries and jurisdictions and boasts a global ecosystem of over 30,000 distinguished entrepreneurs. Program participants benefit from lifelong connections, learning resources and insights to help navigate their growth journey, and opportunities to raise the profile of their companies. Each program concludes with a competition and announcement of a winner who goes on to represent their country or region in the ultimate global competition and event for entrepreneurs: World Entrepreneur Of The Year®. ey.com/eoy

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