



 UAI[®]
Excellence Awards
Nomination Toolkit

www.UtilityAnalytics.com/Awards

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Validation feels pretty good, and acknowledgement and celebration go a long way toward keeping employees satisfied, teams performing at a high level, and leadership engaged. Get the recognition you deserve with a UAI Excellence Award.

UAI honors the very best in the utility analytics profession, recognizing the individuals, teams, and organizations that have achieved and maintained the highest standards of excellence through innovation.

Do you have what it takes to be a winner? This toolkit provides everything you need to know about nominating a peer, your team, or yourself for one of our awards: dates and deadlines, categories and criteria, tips and tricks, and more.

Nominees must be members of UAI!*

Every finalist gets one free pass to attend UA Week to ensure presence to award ceremony!

Still have questions? Visit the UAI awards portal online at www.UtilityAnalytics.com/Awards or contact the UAI team at Info@UtilityAnalytics.com.

*Rule does not apply to Top 25 Thought Leaders in Utility Analytics. You can be a non-member to nominate someone or be nominated for the UAI Top 25 Thought Leaders in Utility Analytics.



www.UtilityAnalytics.com/Awards



2026 IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Call for Nominations Open:

March 2, 2026

Call for Nominations Closes:

June 30, 2026

Finalists Announced:

August 31, 2026

Finalist Interviews (virtual):

September 1 – 30, 2026

Winners Announced at UA Week:

October 20-22, 2026

Glendale, AZ | Renaissance Phoenix-Glendale

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WHY ENTER?



- **Showcase your impact.** Winners and finalists gain meaningful industry visibility through UAI's coordinated communications, including targeted PR, featured articles, interviews, and recognition across UAI newsletters, UAI Connect, and social media. It's an opportunity to share your work with peers, industry leaders, and decision-makers who are shaping the future of utility analytics.
- **Benchmark your work against peers.** Submitting an entry provides a valuable opportunity to assess how your organization, analytics team, or individual contributions compare with leading practices across the utility industry. The process itself offers insight into where you excel and where there may be opportunities to grow.
- **Recognize the people behind the results.** Analytics success is rarely the work of one person. The entry process encourages thoughtful reflection on the teams, collaborators, and decisions that drove your outcomes. Finalists are encouraged to attend the awards ceremony together, creating a meaningful moment to recognize and celebrate shared accomplishments.
- **Build credibility with leadership.** External recognition matters. UAI Excellence Awards provide third-party validation that can help reinforce the value of analytics initiatives with executive leadership. Recognition for excellence and innovation can support broader conversations about investment, resourcing, and future initiatives.
- **Strengthen employee engagement and retention.** Recognition boosts morale. When teams see their work acknowledged by the broader industry, it reinforces pride, purpose, and connection to the organization. Awards create moments worth celebrating and stories worth sharing.
- **Support talent attraction and workforce development.** Top talent is drawn to organizations that value innovation and recognize excellence. Industry awards signal a strong analytics culture and commitment to professional growth, helping your organization stand out to prospective employees evaluating where to build their careers.
- **Celebrate together at UA Week.** Finalists are recognized during the UAI Excellence Awards Ceremonies at UA Week, offering a shared experience that brings teams together. Each finalist receives one complimentary pass and a discount code to help additional team members attend and celebrate alongside their peers.

Ready to get started? Keep reading for criteria and more.

When you're ready to submit your entry, head to our [awards portal](#) to download your nomination form and enter.

PRO TIP: Share the application questions with your team. Work collaboratively and allow yourself plenty of time.

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CATEGORIES, CRITERIA & NOMINATION QUESTIONS

The UAI Excellence Awards celebrate both individuals and teams that have achieved the highest levels of excellence and innovation in the industry. We accept nominations in the following categories:

- **Best Utility Analytics Professional**
- **Best Utility Analytics Leader**
- **Best Innovative Utility Analytics Team**
- **Analytics Ambassador Award**
- **Top 25 Thought Leaders in Utility Analytics***
- **Community Engagement Award****
 - Most Engaged Individual Member
 - Most Engaged Utility Member
 - Most Engaged Solution Provider Member

**UAI membership not required to nominate someone or be nominated for the Top 25 Thought Leaders in Utility Analytics.*

***Nominations not required to qualify for the UAI Community Engagement Award. UAI will select our winners from a combination of engagement activity, including engagement score on UAI Connect, UAI Community Conversation participation, volunteerism with UAI, plus more!*

BEST UTILITY ANALYTICS PROFESSIONAL



This award recognizes the utility analytics industry's top professional who possess the knowledge, skills, experience, passion, and business acumen required to provide consistent, quality, and innovative effort that is directly relevant to the utility analytics industry. The ideal candidates have a positive attitude, demonstrate a commitment to excellence, and consistently exceed performance objectives. The best utility analytics professional need not be code jockeys nor ninja warriors (though they may be both) but must be highly skilled at critical thinking and have extremely good intuition. As an example, candidates can be data scientists, analysts, architects, engineers or analytics champions for the utility industry. Nominees of this award should not have direct reports. Please see the UAI Best Utility Analytics Leader Award for nominees with team members reporting directly to them.

Nominees will be judged on key qualities and characteristics, including:

- Possessing the knowledge, skills, experience, passion, and business acumen required to provide consistent, quality, and innovative effort that is directly relevant to the utility analytics industry
- Problem-solving, critical-thinking skills
- Consistency and quality for innovative efforts and exceeding performance objectives

NOMINATION QUESTIONS:

1. Describe the nominee's role in your organization, including how long they've been with the organization. (max 500 words)
2. Explain why you're nominating this individual. (max 500 words)
3. Provide either an example of excellent innovation provided by the nominee as it relates to utility analytics OR an example of how the nominee solved business problems using analytics. (max 500 words)
4. Provide examples of the nominee's drive or motivation to perform at a high level. (max 500 words)
5. Provide examples of the critical thinking skills and intuition aptitude the nominee brings to your team. (max 500 words)
6. Supporting Documentation: Upload any documentation (metrics, testimonials, etc.) that you feel would support this nomination. (not required)

BEST UTILITY ANALYTICS LEADER



Leadership is about doing the things that drive action, get results, and improve performance. It is the ability to influence and motivate others, and to provide the tools and environment that allow others to make the best contribution towards the attainment of goals. A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. They might not set out to be a leader, but they become one by the quality of their actions and the integrity of their intent.

This award acknowledges and honors a utility analytics leader who has excelled at supporting any or all analytics work within their utility and who most clearly demonstrates the ability to serve and advance analytics within the utility industry.

Judging is based on the following elements:

- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Strong communication skills
- A track record of successfully mentoring employees
- Command of the strategies and tactics needed for a high-performing organization

NOMINATION QUESTIONS:

1. Describe the nominee and their role as a leader in the organization. (max 500 words)
2. Describe the nominee's leadership style. (max 500 words)
3. Describe the nominee's top 3 strengths as a leader. (max 500 words)
4. As a leader in the organization, how does the nominee demonstrate or communicate their expectations and values. (max 500 words)
5. How does the nominee manage the strategic and tactical components of their organization? (max 500 words)
6. How does the nominee mentor their team to grow personally and professionally? (max 500 words)
7. Supporting Documentation: Upload any documentation (metrics, testimonials, etc.) that you feel would support this nomination. (not required)

BEST INNOVATIVE UTILITY ANALYTICS TEAM



This award recognizes teams that have set and achieved the highest standards of excellence in utility analytics for problem solving in innovative ways and takes the time to instill that culture in their employees. Nominees must demonstrate how their organization best leverages its analytics staff, practices and approaches, and technology to drive innovation to accomplish strategic business objectives. They must be able to show how well new approaches and/or technology are defined and executed or improved to create innovative solutions/uses cases or innovative approaches to problems.

Judging is based on the following elements:

- Clear vision, mission, and strategy for the analytics team, and alignment with the business' goals and strategy, plus a thoughtful and strategic philosophy around analytics
- Examples of new approaches and technology executions and/or improvements to practices and technology that lead to either
 - innovative solution(s)/use case(s) and resulted in a favorable outcome, like a high return on investment (ROI), improved efficiency/reliability/sustainability, increased safety, reduction in risk, etc., or
 - a new/innovative approach to an old or common problem
- Evidence of a strategic methodology for measuring and communicating a successful analytics program to employees, management, and other key stakeholders within the utility
- Evidence of effective coaching, training, and ongoing development of staff for integration of an innovative analytics initiative within the organization
- High employee engagement and satisfaction, and representation of teamwork
- Evidence of a strategic approach to managing cost reduction, reliability, and customer engagement using analytics
- Before-and-after evidence of the business impact of the organization's innovative analytics initiative

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BEST INNOVATIVE UTILITY ANALYTICS TEAM



NOMINATION QUESTIONS:

1. Describe your company, its vision, mission, business goals and strategy. (max 500 words)
2. Describe how your team's vision, mission, goals and strategy align with the overall business' goals and strategy and describe your team's philosophy around analytics. (max 1000 words)
3. Describe your approaches and technology and how they are executed, and/or improved, to either develop innovative solutions/use cases that resulted in one of the following (max 1000 words):
 - A favorable outcome, like high return on investment (ROI), improved efficiency/reliability/sustainability, increased safety, reduction in risk, etc.
 - A new and innovative approach to an old or common problem
4. Describe your methodology for measuring and communicating a successful analytics program to employees, management, and other key stakeholders. Explain the approach, the measurement, the scoring, and the reporting. (max 1,000 words)
5. Describe how your organization effectively coaches, trains, and/or provides ongoing development of staff for a successful integration of an analytics initiative within the utility. Describe how you promote and measure employee engagement and share evidence of success. How is teamwork encouraged? How does management show support for your team and its performance? (max 1000 words)
6. How is the measurement of cost reduction, reliability, and customer engagement and/or experience using analytics reported on and communicated to the rest of the organization and to the customers (e.g., via marketing, sales, direct communication, etc.?) (max 1000 words)
7. Are you able to provide before-and-after evidence of the business impact of the organization's analytics initiative(s)? If yes, please describe. (max 1,000 words)
8. Supporting Documentation: Upload any documentation (metrics, testimonials, etc.) that you feel would support this nomination. (not required)

ANALYTICS AMBASSADOR AWARD



This award recognizes the lasting contributions, leadership, enthusiasm, and tireless efforts of industry luminaries who've committed themselves to elevating the reputation of the utility analytics profession and improving the industry.

UAI's panel of judges selects the nominees, and industry professionals are welcome to send nominee suggestions to UAI. We use the following criteria to evaluate their accomplishments in and dedication to the utility analytics industry:

- The candidate has been active in the utility analytics industry for at least 10 years.
- The candidate has made noteworthy contributions to the industry, including (but not limited to):
 - Providing thought leadership on the industry's strategy and direction
 - Sitting on the boards of industry organizations
 - Providing industry mentorship and leadership
 - Contributing timely content to industry publications
 - Providing input on or helping develop industry research
 - Influencing industry best practices, standards, or frameworks
- The candidate has demonstrated dedication to his or her own professional growth and the growth and success of the industry as a whole.

TOP 25 THOUGHT LEADERS IN UTILITY ANALYTICS

Utility analytics professionals are a community minded bunch. They are a conscientious group eager to learn and grow, and to share with one another to help promote excellence in the industry. And so, it is no surprise that this community is also eager to celebrate its champions, those who are the most active in the community and share their insights for the benefit of all. We are proud to celebrate all that these influencers do for our industry with UAI's *Top 25 Thought Leaders in Utility Analytics*.

We want to hear from you, the members of UAI and the broader utility analytics community. Submit nominees and we'll use your suggestions to put together a list of UAI's Top 25 Thought Leaders in Utility Analytics!

- Tell us who you turn to for guidance in utility analytics.
- Who has influenced you the most and helped you advance your career?
- Help us identify those people who are shaping the future of utility analytics.

Nominees can be from various aspects of the industry, including utility analytics professionals, business analytics champions, consultants, speakers, authors, bloggers or solution provider representatives who share UAI's values, want to advance the analytics craft within the energy utilities, and who want to help shape the future of the utility analytics profession to drive business transformation.

Nominators or nominees do not have to be members of UAI.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD



- Most Engaged Individual Member
- Most Engaged Utility Member
- Most Engaged Solution Provider Member

Nominations not required to qualify for the UAI Community Engagement Award.

UAI will select our winners for this award category from a combination of engagement activity, including engagement score on UAI Connect, UAI Community Conversation involvement, [volunteerism with UAI](#), plus more!

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ENTRY



- **Start early and plan ahead.** Strong entries take time. Build in space to gather input, validate results, and refine your story. Early planning also allows you to pull in perspectives from across the organization and avoid last-minute rushes.
- **Choose the category strategically.** Select the category or categories that best align with your most meaningful outcomes and strengths. Judges are looking for clear impact, so choose a category where you can demonstrate measurable results and a compelling narrative. If the evidence does not clearly support a category, consider whether another may be a better fit.
- **Focus on what matters most.** It can be tempting to include everything your team has accomplished, but focus is key. Anchor your entry to the award criteria and highlight the achievements that best demonstrate excellence. A clear, well-structured story is more powerful than a long list of accomplishments.
- **Tell a clear, logical story.** Strong entries read like a case study. Explain the problem or opportunity, describe your approach, and clearly articulate the outcomes. Help the judges understand not just what you did, but why it mattered and what changed as a result.
- **Answer the questions directly and thoroughly.** Read each question carefully and ensure your response clearly addresses what is being asked. Avoid including unrelated information that can dilute your message or confuse the judges.
- **Assume no prior knowledge.** Judges may not be familiar with your organization, systems, or terminology. Avoid acronyms and internal shorthand and explain concepts simply and clearly. Clarity and accessibility strengthen credibility.
- **Engage voices across the organization.** Involving team members at different levels often surfaces insights, outcomes, and impacts you may not have considered. Leadership input can also help articulate strategic alignment and enterprise-level value, strengthening the overall entry.
- **Lead with evidence.** Concrete data builds confidence. Use metrics, benchmarks, and outcomes wherever possible to support your claims. Clear, quantifiable results help judges understand the scale and significance of your work.
- **Highlight stakeholder impact.** Demonstrate how your work created value for customers, partners, or internal stakeholders. Testimonials and quotes can be powerful when they are concise and directly tied to outcomes. Remember that stakeholders may be internal or external.
- **Polish the presentation.** Clear writing, strong organization, and careful proofreading matter. Well-presented entries are easier to evaluate and reflect professionalism. Reading responses aloud or having a colleague review them can help catch gaps or unclear sections.
- **Use supporting materials thoughtfully.** Supporting documents should enhance, not overwhelm. Include only materials that reinforce your story and key outcomes. Metrics, visuals, or testimonials can be effective when packaged clearly and concisely, ideally in a single, well-organized PDF.

Learn more, submit your nominations online, and browse our awards portal at www.utilityanalytics.com/Awards!
