



 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 the award ceremony, hosted at UA Week!

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.



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2021 IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Call for Entries Open:

February 1, 2021

Call for Entries Closes:

June 30, 2021

Finalists Announced:

September 1, 2021

Finalist Interviews (virtual):

September 6 – October 1, 2021

Winners Announced during UA Week:

October 13-15, 2021

Gaylord Texan | Dallas, TX



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WHY ENTER?



- **Raise your profile.** Across all sizes and types of organizations, award winners and finalists benefit from industry exposure through a coordinated PR campaign and exposure to some of the most influential people in the profession. Our program offers unique PR and marketing collateral through articles and interviews and featured in our newsletter and on UAI Connect.
- **Measure your performance.** By entering, you will be able to gauge how your organization, utility analytics team, and professionals compare against the very best.
- **Acknowledge your team's efforts.** In the new energy economy of utility analytics, achievements are easy to overlook. The process of completing the entry form allows you to pause and consider what (and who) contributed to your success and where you can go from here. Bonus: finalists are strongly encouraged to attend the awards ceremony and celebrate success with their team!
- **Impress your leadership.** Your leadership wants to leverage and promote a winning team and company, and reputation is often a factor in gaining approval for new and exciting projects. Show your leadership that you are part of a winning team, one that has won an award for excellence in innovation.
- **Retain existing employees.** Winning awards can improve employee morale, too. When employees are proud of their team, organization, or company's achievements, they have an excuse to brag to their friends and family.
- **Attract new employees.** Awards can help you attract the best new employees. People are drawn to award-winning businesses because they want to work for successful companies. In today's experience economy, potential employees are looking at awards and company rankings to make career decisions.
- **Celebrate your achievements as a team.** Celebrate your team's success by attending the awards ceremony at UA Week. Each finalist receives one complimentary pass for the event and a discount code to help you bring even more team members!

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: Print and 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**** – Awards given in each category:
 - Most Engaged Professional
 - Most Engaged Utility Company

**UAI membership not required to 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, and volunteerism with UAI.*

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. Candidates can be managers, team leaders, data scientists, or analysts, as well as analytics champions for the utility industry. 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

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 a favorable outcome, like high return on investment (ROI), improved efficiency/reliability/sustainability, increased safety, reduction in risk, etc., or how they created a new and innovative approach to an old or common problem (max 1000 words)
4. Please 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.

Nominees do not have to be members of UAI.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD



- Most Engaged Individual UAI Member
- Most Engaged Utility Company 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, and [volunteerism with UAI](#).

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ENTRY



- **Allow yourself plenty of time to prepare your entries.** Be sure to set aside plenty of time to write your entry and get input from around the business.
- **Think carefully about which category you want to enter.** Think about your significant accomplishments and play to your strengths by entering the most relevant category for your team. Also, bear in mind that you will need hard, quantifiable results to really wow the judges. Can't find these? You may want to consider another category.
- **Stay focused.** It's tempting to tell our judges about every amazing thing your team has accomplished, but it's important to stick to the criteria. Tell the judges about your most notable achievements in a clear, consistent way. If you can, try and tell a story with your entry. For example, the reason for the initiative is the beginning, the middle is how you implemented it, and the ending is the results you have gained.
- **Read the questions on the entry form carefully and make sure that you are answering them thoroughly.** It sounds simple, but you'd be amazed how many entrants misunderstand the questions or include information that is not relevant.
- **Remember that the judges don't know your business – avoid acronyms. The simpler, the better.** Take a step back from the environment and processes you are absorbed in every day. We've seen lots of entries that seem to assume that all utility analytics operations run in the same way, but this is not the case; therefore, it's best to be as clear as possible.
- **Involve the whole team.** Ask staff at all levels for input – there may be hidden gems within the business that you don't know about, and employees may have unique ideas about information to include. Your team will gain a lot from looking back and seeing everything they've achieved – and they will feel appreciated. Also, consider the benefits of talking to someone at a high level. This may give you a good idea of how the initiative or the person has affected the business as a whole and how it fits into the company's strategic goals.
- **Evidence, evidence, evidence.** Keep statements factual, as this will help with the credibility of your entry. For example, instead of saying “We have an excellent training program,” say “Our new training program contributed to a cost reduction of 25% since the program began.”
- **Don't underestimate the power of the customer!** It's important that you make it clear how the individual or initiative has impacted your customers. Testimonials from customers and internal stakeholders are incredibly powerful – choose the best examples that clearly and concisely demonstrate your excellence. Tip: customers don't have to be external to the business. Sometimes customers are internal stakeholders.
- **Presentation, spelling, and grammar matter.** It sounds obvious, but it's difficult to overstate how important this is. Make sure to build time in your entry process for proofreading. Try reading the answers to the questions aloud to a friend or relative – if it makes sense to them, it will make sense to the judges.
- **Supporting material helps.** Don't overload judges with supporting materials that aren't relevant to your story. Carefully consider how you can most effectively illustrate your success. Feel free to include metrics, testimonials, etc., whatever best supports your story. Package up your supporting documentation in one PDF to make it more accessible for the judges.

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