

ORA Industry Celebration

Award Categories and Criteria



Join the Ohio Restaurant Association (ORA) for the annual Industry Awards Celebration held during the Mid-America Restaurant Expo. We spotlight leaders and professionals of Ohio's restaurant and foodservice industry to honor their dedication, excellence and service to the industry, communities and beyond.

The February 23, 2020 event is being hosted at the George Bellows Ballroom in the Downtown Hilton Columbus. Attendees will have the chance to experience this award-winning hotel and celebrate 100 years of excellence with the Ohio Restaurant Association.

In addition to recognition at the event, award winners will also receive statewide marketing exposure in the form of press releases, recognition on the ORA website, in *a la Carte* and *News Bites*. Nomination forms will be accepted until October 2, 2019.

Award Categories

- **The Claude F. Morton, Jr. Lifetime Achievement:** The ORA's most prestigious award given to one restaurateur for exceptional lifetime service to the restaurant industry and his/her community. Nominees must have been an ORA member for 10+ years.
- **Outstanding Restaurateur:** A restaurateur(s) recognized for his/her extraordinary contributions to the restaurant industry – a leader that implements innovative ideas, demonstrates passion for the industry and their community. One winner selected from the following regions: Northern Ohio, Central Ohio and Southern Ohio.
- **Outstanding Vendor:** A company and/or leader recognized for exceptional service to the restaurant community.
- **Outstanding Public Official:** This award honors public officials who fight for the best interest of small business owners and the restaurant community.
- **Outstanding Industry Educator:** This award honors an educator who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the advancement of the Ohio foodservice industry.
- **Industry Innovator:** This award is presented to an individual or company that has applied a new product or creative approach, resulting in the growth or transformation of their business.
- **Safe Plate Award:** This award honors a restaurant or company with an outstanding cleanliness and food safety record.
- **Tech Titan:** Recognizing an individual or organization for their use of technology to enhance their business or impact the foodservice industry.
- **Rising Star:** Honors an emerging leader in the foodservice industry – one whose work demonstrates ongoing exceptional growth and high potential for future impact.
- **Nourishing the Community:** Recognizing an individual or organization for their outstanding contributions through community service or charitable involvement.
- **Front of the House:** Serves as a model employee by displaying an outstanding work ethic, excellent customer service and is a leader amongst their peers. Nominees must be in a non-managerial position at an Ohio Restaurant Association member restaurant.
- **Back of the House:** Serves as a model employee by displaying an outstanding work ethic, excellent attention to detail and is a leader amongst their peers. Nominees must be in a non-managerial position at an Ohio Restaurant Association member restaurant.

Award Criteria

1. Nominees may be an individual, a team or a partnership with one or more foodservice business operations. Nominees may be working, retired or deceased. There is no limit to the number of individuals nominated. Self-nominations are allowed.
2. Nominees for The Claude F. Morton Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award must have been an ORA member for 10+ years.
3. A separate nomination form must be completed for each individual nominated. Photocopied forms are accepted. Each area of the form must be completed to be considered for nomination.
4. All recipients are strongly encouraged to attend the Industry Celebration on February 23, 2020 in Columbus to receive their award and be recognized by the foodservice industry.
5. Complete the official Nomination Form and submit in writing no more than **1-2** page(s) describing the nominee's contributions and accomplishments. Ask the nominee for a bio to submit in addition to the 1-2 page narrative.

