The Professional Section Recognition Program was created to highlight the accomplishments of our outstanding sections. This new recognition program is designed to shine a light on the amazing work our professional sections produce throughout the ASME program year. Our sections make a difference in the lives of mechanical engineers throughout the world, and this is our opportunity to congratulate the volunteer leaders and members on their great work!

**Professional sections will be eligible to participate in the recognition program through May 31, 2021.**

**Section Achievement Award**

In order to be eligible for this program, receive this award sections must complete the steps listed below.

- Complete and submit the Section Update form, this should include the Section Leadership Team (SLT) members filling a minimum of the three required positions (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer).
  - All SLT members must be active ASME members in good standing for the entire program year.
- Complete and return the Section Activity Plan
- SLT members will complete and return the Volunteer Agreement form
- All public online presence for a section must be kept current, and at least updated quarterly
- Hold a minimum of three virtual activities for section members through May 31, 2021, including:
  - Student section program and/or program benefiting students
  - Early career networking event
  - Professional or Technical meeting / training
- Submit GMEC requests to promote the specified activities above
- Submit After-Activity Reports for the specified activities above

Sections that meet this criteria will receive the Section Achievement Award, which includes recognition in the ASME Section Newsletter and ASME.org, and one free ASME membership. The SLT will select the recipient of the free ASME membership. E-certificates will also be provided to the SLT. For more information related to this criteria review the Section Handbook.

Sections that meet the Section Achievement Award criteria will be considered eligible to submit a nomination for the awards listed below. Additional information will be provided on submitting nomination materials separately.

The awards listed below will recognize the best of our professional section community, and the amazing work completed by the volunteer leaders. These awards recognize sections for their outstanding achievements in community engagement, membership growth, unique programming, and out-of-the-box activities.

The winners of these awards will be selected by a committee of volunteers and staff based on additional criteria and information submitted.
*Section of the Year Award*

This award will be given to one outstanding section eligible to receive the Section Achievement Award, and meets a minimum of three required criteria listed below (points earned will be dependent on the proven success of activities; extra points will be given to sections that successfully meet additional criteria). All activities will need to be concluded by May 31, 2021.

- Host a virtual community engagement event/activity (e.g. a community service event, hosting an event partnering with a community organization, etc.)
- Complete a virtual activity that supports the mission and vision of ASME and highlights the benefits of ASME membership
- Receive sponsorship funding (scored on a sliding scale and dependent on the amount of sponsorship funds received related to the expense of the activity)
- Work in partnership with staff and volunteers from other areas within ASME, e.g.:
  - Collaborating with another section on an activity or event
  - Working with or helping a division engage section members
- Develop a micro-volunteer program for section members that would like to volunteer for short-term roles. The program will need to be utilized in at least three separate instances (e.g. Virtual host or emcee, technical point person, chat moderator, breakout room leader, etc.)
- Create a program that includes a celebration of cultural diversity in engineering (e.g. an Engineer Week program highlighting diversity in engineering, a program series highlighting engineers from diverse backgrounds, a program that follows a specific month celebrating cultural diversity, etc.)

The section receiving this award will be recognized at a special year-end event, receive an additional $1000 from the Section Activity Funding Program to be used in the upcoming program year for eligible programs and activities, and highlighted in ASMENews and the section newsletter. The selected section will also be recognized by a member of the Executive staff and/or the Presidential team.

*Section Innovation Award*

This award will be given to one innovative section that is eligible for the Section Achievement Award and meets the criteria below. All activities will need to be concluded by May 31, 2021.

- Section develops and executes a creative and original virtual event benefiting the members highlighting one of ASME's five strategic technologies (Bioengineering, Clean Energy, Manufacturing, Pressure Technology or Robotics) using one of the platforms listed below:
  - Industry engagement
  - Professional development
  - K-12 engagement

The winning section will receive an additional $500 from the Section Activity Funding Program to be used in the upcoming program year for eligible programs and activities, and highlighted in ASMENews and the Section newsletter.
*Best Activity Ever (BAE) Award*

This award is given to one exceptional section that is eligible to receive the Section Achievement Award, along with successfully developing and executing an activity that meets the criteria listed below. All activities will need to be concluded by May 31, 2021.

- Engage at least 25% of the overall section membership during a virtual event (This will be scored on a sliding scale additional points may be given depending on the size of the section)
- Develop and execute a virtual event that addresses the needs of the section members, provides community connectivity, and engages students and early career engineers.
- Complete a virtual event that creates revenue for the section.

The winning section will receive an additional $500 from the Section Activity Funding Program to be used for an activity in the upcoming program year for eligible programs and activities, and highlighted in ASMENews and the section newsletter.

*Award may not be presented every year.*