



Top Notch 2026 Darrell Gossett

Labor Management Foundation Award

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

In true Top Notch spirit, the **Top Notch Darrell Gossett Labor Management Foundation Award** will recognize excellence in Labor Management Partnership, the true foundation of success in the union construction industry.

Please note: It is not necessary for the applicant of the Top Notch Darrell Gossett Labor Management Foundation Award to be a formalized labor management partnership. The application simply requires two applicants – one representing labor and one representing management. We are looking for unique stories of labor and management creatively working together to enhance the success of a project or our industry.

QUALIFICATION FOR RECOGNITION: Applicants for the Darrell Gossett Labor Management Foundation Award MUST:

- Include a labor partner and a management partner as co-applicants. Both applicants must be affiliated with the union construction industry in Indiana.
- All applicants must currently be financially contributing to Top Notch as a member. (Either via language in a collective bargaining agreement, through a contractor association or via an annual donation.)

BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH RECOGNITION AS TOP NOTCH LABOR MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION AWARD RECIPIENT INCLUDE:

- Applicants mentioned in Media Release issued by Top Notch following the May awards program.
- Applicants mentioned in Full Page advertisement in the Indianapolis Business Journal
- Applicants mentioned in Building Excellence Follow Up Article
- Applicants mentioned in Top Notch Newsletter Article.
- Applicants mentioned and tag in Top Notch Social Media Posts.



TOP NOTCH DARRELL GOSSETT LABOR MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION AWARD PACKAGE: Each application should include each of the following:

- 1) AWARD APPLICATION:** A completed Top Notch Labor Management Foundation Award application.
- 2) MULTIMEDIA REQUIREMENT:** At a minimum, all application submissions should include five photographs or images to support the text of the application.

All applications are encouraged to consider the use of additional supporting forms of media, including PHOTOS, FLASH DRIVES, or POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS to respond to the application questions. However, such creative materials must be limited to five minutes in length and should be considered supporting materials to the written submissions. The applicant will not present such materials to the jury. The jury will review the materials independently.

Inclusion of photographs and additional supporting forms of media as part of an application authorizes Top Notch to use the material at the annual awards presentation, as well as in advertisements promoting the awards program.

- 4) REFERENCES:** Please provide a list of references, including five to fifteen individuals who participated in the labor management partnership. Please provide accurate email addresses for each reference.

Top Notch will forward a separate survey to each reference to be completed immediately following receipt of the reference list. *Failure to include references, or incomplete contact information for references, will result in the disqualification of the application submission. Please note, the judges pay particular attention to the response rate of the reference surveys. Top Notch encourages applicants to follow up with the references to ensure they are responding in a timely fashion.*

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- All Applications should be limited to activities that have taken place in the past three years.
- Applications do not need to remain anonymous. Applicants should feel free to utilize the name of their organization in the submission.
- Each applicant will receive a feedback form completed by the jury outlining what worked well on their application and what could be improved for future cycles.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Please note ALL AWARD APPLICATIONS must be submitted online at topnotch.org by April 9, 2026.

Applicants can download award applications for each category at the Top Notch website at www.topnotch.org. Applicants must submit all requested reference lists, including email addresses, by the deadline.

AWARDS PROGRAM:

The award recipients for each of the above awards will be recognized at the Top Notch Standards of Excellence Program to be held May 14, 2026. Prior notice of recognition will not be given to the award recipients prior to the Top Notch Standards of Excellence Program



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APPLICATION FORM

Please note ALL AWARD APPLICATIONS must be submitted online at topnotch.org by April 9, 2026.

Submitting Organization(s):

Labor Partner:

Management Partner:

Applicant Contact Name:

Address:

City/State:

Phone:

Email:

How does your program contribute financially to Top Notch of Indiana?

- We contribute as a result of language in our collective bargaining agreement.
- We belong to a Labor Management Partnership that contributes to Top Notch (also referred to as the Construction Industry Progress Council of Indiana or CIPCI.) Partnership name:
- Other:



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APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Please review the Standards of Excellence for the Top Notch Darrell Gossett Labor Management Foundation Category:

A true labor management partnership is exhibited in all areas of a partnership from training, project delivery to innovation. The partnership is a developed cohesiveness between both groups that remains focused on a successful construction project for our clients/customers/end users. Top Notch Contractors and Tradesmen maintain an overall awareness of the total project and a commitment to the efficient coordination of work between all trades. The result is a more cohesive approach to construction, which creates value for our industry and our client/customers/end users.

Please describe how your labor management partnership effectively applies the standards of excellence in this award category to **ONE** of the **THREE** industry categories below. Please provide examples of effective programming or operations that could be replicated by other labor management partnerships. Answers should be limited to programming or initiatives that have taken place in the past three years. Please limit your response to 500 words or less. Any application not following this guideline will NOT be considered for an award.

- I. Describe a program or initiative or project that featured the partnership of your union and union contractor(s) working together to strengthen the construction industry. OR

- II. Provide examples of your partnership working closely within your community to create a positive image of the union construction industry. (i.e. charitable or community projects designed to improve our community and highlight our industry as a good community citizen.) OR

- III. Describe what your labor management organization has done to influence the governmental, legislative or local council issues that impact the union construction industry.

END OF APPLICATION