



## VAFRE's Rising Star Award Call for Nominations for 2024

The Rising Star Award is made annually to a fundraising professional who exhibits excellent potential and who has demonstrated remarkable talents at an early stage in their fundraising career. Award winners are selected from a competitive field of finalists who are nominated by VAFRE members, area fundraisers and board members. The selection committee convenes each year to review nominations and select the winner.

The recipient is honored at a special luncheon attended by representatives from across the Commonwealth. This luncheon provides a significant opportunity for those who have been influenced by the recipient—from colleagues to board members to other professionals in the field—to show their appreciation and gratitude.

### Past Award Winners are:

**Elizabeth Mason Foster** (2023)  
**Leigh Busby** (2022)  
**Sarah Young** (2021)  
**Virginia Layfield McAndrew** (2020)  
**Amy Clark Garmon** (2019)  
**Susan Norkus** (2018)  
**Alex Wiles** (2017)  
**Allison Santos** (2016)  
**Erin O'Regan** (2015)  
**Shannon L. Hair** (2014)

**Jennie Reed Romero** (2013)  
**Alexandra Moore** (2012)  
**Ashley Dow Burton** (2011)  
**Bethanie Constant** (2010)  
**Aimee Koch** (2009)  
**Cat Hulburt** (2008)  
**Loren Hatcher** (2007)  
**Carrie Kozonasky** (2006)  
**Aaron McClung** (2005)  
**Elizabeth Yost** (2004)

### Criteria for Rising Star Award

- Nominee must be a VAFRE member or AFP Central Virginia Chapter member. Membership may be verified in the on-line directory at [www.vafre.org](http://www.vafre.org) or by e-mailing [admin@vafre.org](mailto:admin@vafre.org). To verify AFP membership, e-mail [admin@afpcentralva.org](mailto:admin@afpcentralva.org).
- Nominee will be relatively new to the profession of fundraising. This is defined as 3 to 10 years as a paid fund development professional.
- Nominee has shown outstanding professional and ethical service to the field of development.
- Nominee has made a positive impact on his/her organization(s) and exhibits passion and commitment to the cause.
- Nominee has shown innovation in planning and implementing a successful fundraising project.
- Nominee demonstrates leadership potential.
- Nominee has demonstrated interest in furthering their fundraising career through professional development opportunities.

### Guidelines

- Listing of achievements should not be limited to only one organization. Cumulative accomplishments, both vocational and avocational, will be considered.
- Any member of the development field, including board members or other volunteers involved with a nonprofit organization, may make nominations.
- Nominators can make as many nominations as they wish.
- Individuals may nominate themselves.
- Nominees **may** be a member of the VAFRE or AFP Board of Directors but **may not** serve on the Awards Selection Committee.

## **Nomination Process**

- Nominations should be made using this nomination form.
- Nominations should speak to the above criteria as well as other career highlights and areas of outstanding service by the nominee.
- Three letters of support will be accepted by hard copy or e-mail. One must be from the organization's leadership and/or from a Board Member.
- Nominations should be sent to the VAFRE Offices by e-mail, [admin@vafre.org](mailto:admin@vafre.org), or mail to P.O. Box 6605, Richmond, Virginia 23230.

Questions/VAFRE Board contact:  
Samantha Marrs, VCU DAR  
Email [swmarrs@vcu.edu](mailto:swmarrs@vcu.edu)

**DEADLINE FOR 2024 NOMINATIONS IS WEDNESDAY, January 31, 2024.**



## VAFRE'S RISING STAR DEVELOPMENT RECOGNITION AWARD Call for Nominations for 2024

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR NOMINATION

Individuals may nominate as many candidates as they wish. Members may nominate themselves. **Nominee must be a member in good standing of VAFRE** (membership may be verified in the on-line directory at [www.vafre.org](http://www.vafre.org) or by e-mailing [admin@vafre.org](mailto:admin@vafre.org)) or **AFP Central Virginia Chapter** (membership may be verified by e-mailing [admin@afpcentralva.org](mailto:admin@afpcentralva.org)) and not a present member of VAFRE's Awards Committee. Nomination should be no longer than four (4) pages and must be signed by the nominator. Letters of support (up to 3) will be accepted by hard copy or via email.

Please submit nominations by e-mail to [admin@vafre.org](mailto:admin@vafre.org) by **Wednesday, January 31, 2024**.

Full Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Service in Development: \_\_\_\_\_

Has Nominee volunteered on any VAFRE or AFP Central VA Committee or the Board? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

If yes, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and affiliation of those sending letters of support for this nominee. One must be from a member of the organization's leadership and/or board member.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by (Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Short Answer Questions

*Please answer each question as fully as possible.*

- 1.) To what extent has the nominee shown outstanding professional and ethical service to the field of development? Please list examples and describe the nominee's understanding of ethical fundraising.
- 2.) To what extent has the nominee made a positive impact on his/her affiliate organization(s)? Please describe in terms of dollars raised significant to the organization, relationships with organization's leadership and how nominee displays passion and commitment to cause.

3.) How has the nominee shown innovation in planning and implementing a successful fundraising project, initiative or campaign? How were major goals/milestones achieved? Was success well-defined and did the nominee have a significant role in planning?

4.) Give examples of the nominee's leadership potential—both within their organization and among other community organizations.

5.) Please list additional information you believe would be helpful to the awards selection committee in reviewing award applications.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Nominator)