

IEEE Quantum Technical Community Distinguished Early Career Award

Presented annually by
IEEE Quantum Technical Community

1. General

The IEEE Quantum Technical Community (QTC) Distinguished Early Career Award is presented annually to a scientist or engineer in the early stages of their career who has made contributions above and beyond those considered normal for a person at such an early stage. Nomination packages should specifically address contributions in the field of quantum computing and engineering. Here are the [2025 QTC Award winners](#) for your reference.

2. Detailed Criteria for the Award

Normally, a recipient of this award will be either a scientist or an engineer who completed their PhD or other terminal degree no more than 10 years before the time of nomination. However, it is not a hard requirement. If a candidate does not satisfy this requirement, the nominator needs to provide an explanation why the candidate is still in “early stages of their career”. It will be considered as one of the factors.

The Committee expects a nominee for the QTC Distinguished Early Career Award to exceed expectations in at least two of the Criteria 2.1 to 2.4. For a nominee to be considered primarily under criterion 2.5, an exceptionally strong case would be needed.

Criteria

- 2.1. The main criteria are technical, scientific, and engineering contributions.
- 2.2 The nominee has demonstrated leadership in the quantum computing and engineering community.
- 2.3. The nominee has produced and disseminated important research results with impacts on quantum computing concepts and practice.
- 2.4. The academic nominee has made significant educational contributions (e.g., design of new courses, curricula, and syllabi, or exceptional mentoring). The industry or government nominee has successfully managed multiple major projects from initiation, product development, to delivery and beyond.
- 2.5. The nominee has made other outstanding contributions that, in the opinion of the QTC Distinguished Early Career Award Committee, warrant the Award.

3. Eligibility

A nominee must be an IEEE Computer Society Quantum Technical Community member at the time of nomination.

4. Solicitation

To ensure a broad and competitive pool of nominees, members of the IEEE QTC Distinguished Early Career Award Committee may encourage nominations for the award. Potential nominees may be identified and recommended informally for consideration, including individuals from academia, industry, and government sectors.

Nomination packages must be submitted by a qualified nominator who is not a member of the 2026 IEEE QTC Distinguished Early Career Award Committee. Committee members are not permitted to serve as nominators or participate in the preparation of nomination materials. While potential candidates may assist in assembling required documentation, the primary responsibility for the nomination rests with the nominator.

Self-nominations will not be considered. Nominees who have previously received the award are not eligible. The Committee reserves the right to solicit nominations where appropriate and may decide not to make an award in a given year.

5. Nomination Package

- Nominator: name, address, phone number, and email address of the person making the nomination.
- Nominee: name, address, phone number, and email address of the individual (not self-nominated) for whom an award is recommended.
- A short statement (300-500 words) explaining why the nominee deserves the recommended award.
- A letter from the nominee saying “I accept this nomination” and “my IEEE membership number is XXXXXXXX”
- Supporting letters of endorsement from at least two people, in addition to the nominator.
- The curriculum vitae (CV), detailed biographical summary of the nominee, or a document highlighting the story and major achievements of the nominee and their impact on quantum computing and engineering.

It is at the discretion of any QTC Distinguished Early Career Award Committee member to evaluate any additional information included in the package.

6. Submission of Nomination Package

A nomination package should be uploaded to easychair.org in the **QTC Distinguished Early Career Award nomination track** for the award using the submission link:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=qce26>

The nomination package should be uploaded as a single PDF attachment for the track submission. The **author** of the submission should be the nominator, and the **title** of the submission should be “2026 IEEE QTC DISTINGUISHED EARLY CAREER AWARD Submission for [NOMINEE]”. There are additional fields on the submission form for the nominator’s credentials.

General inquiries about the IEEE QTC Distinguished Early Career Award may be directed to the 2026 IEEE QTC Distinguished Early Career Awards Selection Committee listed below.

7. Awards Ceremony

The QTC Distinguished Early Career Award is presented annually during the **IEEE QCE Awards Ceremony at IEEE Quantum Week**. The IEEE QTC Chair, IEEE QCE General Chair, and the Chair of the QTC Distinguished Early Career Award Selection Committee will present the award to the recipient(s) at the QCE Award Ceremony. The award announcement and recipient(s) will be prominently featured immediately following the selection on the IEEE QTC and QCE websites and shared widely through official social media channels.

8. 2026 QTC Distinguished Early Career Awards Selection Committee

Greg Byrd (Chair), NC State University

Angela Sara Cacciapuoti, University of Naples Federico II

Bert de Jong, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

Steve Girvin, Yale University

Laura Schulz, Argonne National Laboratory (ANL)

Travis Humble, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)