LEDucation 2027 Introduces LEDawards

Recognizing lighting innovation and connecting designers with application-driven solutions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 10, 2026. New York, NY. The LEDucation Trade Show and Conference, presented by the Designers Lighting Forum of New York (DLFNY), is launching LEDawards—a new **product** recognition program designed to highlight lighting innovations and help attendees of North America's largest lighting trade show easily discover standout solutions across the show floor.

Inspired by LEDucation's core mission of accessibility and community education, LEDawards creates an inclusive platform by offering **one complimentary product submission per table** to every exhibiting manufacturer.

"Traditional industry awards play an important role, but their submission fees have historically kept many exceptional products out of the spotlight," said Kenny Schutz LEDawards Co-Chair and Principal, Focus Lighting. "Removing those financial barriers, LEDawards allows every LEDucation exhibitor the opportunity to bring their best work to the table."

Built Around How Designers Work

LEDawards is a lighting product recognition program organized entirely by project application—matching how lighting designers and specifiers research products in the real world.

LEDucation exhibitors can enter one product per table across one targeted application category: Commercial, Education, Entertainment & Architainment, Healthcare, Hospitality, Institutional, Landscape, Lighting Controls, Luminaire Components, Offices, Residential, Retail, and Site Lighting.

"Designers come to LEDucation energized to find real solutions for their project challenges," said Shaun Fillion, LEDawards Co-Chair and Director of Lighting Design, RAB | NYSID. "With 450+ exhibitors to view in just three days, LEDawards acts as a curated roadmap, organized by application category, making it easier for designers to find products relevant to their projects."

Evaluation & Show Floor Recognition

A volunteer jury of lighting designers and educators will review submissions, looking for originality of form and function, technical performance breakthroughs, tailored application solutions, and sustainability benchmarking.

- **Shortlist Announcement**: Approximately 60 leading products will be shortlisted and announced in February 2027, giving manufacturers early news to share across their pre-show outreach and social channels.
- **Best-in Category Winners** will be announced and celebrated in person on April 13 during Designer Day at LEDucation, with additional recognition on the show floor and featured coverage across LEDucation's marketing platforms.

Key Dates

- Submissions Open: November 10, 2026
- Submissions Close: December 31, 2026
- Judging Period: Mid-February 2027
- Shortlist Announced: February 2027
- Best-in Category Winners Revealed: April 13, 2027 (Designer Day at LEDucation 2027)

For more information about LEDawards, visit leducation.org/ledawards

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About LEDucation

Organized by the Designers Lighting Forum of New York, LEDucation is the ultimate marketplace and educational platform for solid state lighting innovations, giving industry professionals a chance to experience new technologies as well as continue their education through a wide range of accredited seminars. LEDucation is a nonprofit event, and proceeds stimulate future lighting advancements by supporting a variety of DLFNY grants, scholarships, and lighting programs.

For more information about LEDucation, visit leducation.org

About the Designers Lighting Forum of New York

The Designers Lighting Forum of New York (DLFNY) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the art and science of lighting. Founded in 1934 and led by a volunteer Board of Managers, DLFNY brings together lighting designers, architects, manufacturers, representatives, contractors, educators, and students to foster collaboration, innovation, and professional growth. Through educational programs, awards, grants, scholarships, networking events, and LEDucation, DLFNY supports the lighting community in New York City and beyond.

For more information about DLFNY, visit dlfny.com