

Please review the following information before continuing

Eligibility:

Applicants must be employed by a private sector firm – whether financial services, fintech or retailer – and must focus on payments as a primary job responsibility. Women whose primary employment is at any type of trade association, regulatory agency, or law, accounting, or other professional services firm are not eligible for this program. Eligibility is not restricted by geography.

Applicants must be no more than 40 years of age as of Dec. 31, 2020, and be with their current employer for at least ONE FULL YEAR as of Dec. 31, 2020. Each applicant also must secure a nomination from someone at the same organization (regardless of gender) who is at the level of an executive vice president or above, who mentors or directly manages her, who can speak to how she has demonstrated leadership skills and who believes she shows the potential to someday make it to the C-suite.

In selecting women for recognition in this program, the judges will choose no more than one honoree per organization. However, there is no restriction on the number of women who may apply from a single organization.

Once selected to be part of the program, honorees will not be eligible to apply again in subsequent years. But applicants who are not selected remain eligible.

Judging criteria:

Applications are read by a selection committee made up of PaymentsSource staff members. This is the same committee that reviews the applications for the Most Influential Women in Payments.

For this program recognizing women in the talent pipeline, the candidates are evaluated primarily on:

- The nomination from her mentor/manager
- Performance on a specific initiative at her organization within the past 18 months (anytime from summer 2019 on)
- The impact of that initiative on the organization (whether that is reflected in the bottom line or otherwise)
- Qualities such as leadership, teamwork and personal initiative, demonstrated through action
- Perceived potential for an extraordinary and influential career, as evidenced by all of the above

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Important instructions:

Please note that we are not accepting printed nomination forms, though PDFs are provided for your convenience. Only submissions collected through the online system will be considered.

Partially completed forms may be saved in the system until ready to be submitted. If you choose to save and exit, you will be asked to supply a password, then you will be given a link. You must retain the password and link, or you will not be able to return to the partially completed application again. We do not have access to your password so cannot help if it is misplaced.

You will be given the option to have an email sent to you with the link. The email you receive in this case will come from noreply@formstack.com. You will still need to remember your password, however.

Every time you save the application to return later, a new link will be generated. If you accidentally use an old link, you will not return to your most-updated version of the application, but to a previous version instead.

Please do not hit the "submit" button at the end until the application is fully completed.

Once you hit submit, you will not be able to access your application again.

Deadline:

Individual applications must be submitted by the deadline of **Thursday, March 11, at midnight EST** to be considered.

Awards luncheon:

The Most Influential Women in Payments: NEXT honorees will be selected in the spring of 2021 and celebrated at a virtual champagne toast hosted by PaymentsSource during the annual LEAD conference, a three-day professional and personal development program that brings together female leaders at all levels from across the country. This year's LEAD conference will take place virtually May 18-20, 2021. More details will be shared with the honorees in due course.

Nominee:

All contact information is for internal use only and will not be published. But these fields are required.

Social media information is optional. But the intent is to tag selected honorees in relevant PaymentsSource posts after the winners are made public. This is not only to celebrate the honorees, but to give them more visibility across the industry.

Nominee's name: _____

Nominee's age as of Dec. 31, 2020 (must be 40 or younger to qualify): _____

Nominee's title: _____

Nominee's company: _____

Nominee's mailing address: _____

Nominee's email address: _____

Nominee's phone number: _____

Nominee's Twitter handle: _____

URL to applicant's LinkedIn page: _____

Please also provide an alternate contact (executive assistant, media relations representative, human resources official, diversity coordinator, etc.) to whom we may direct follow-up questions about this application, and to whom information about our program can be sent.

Contact's name: _____

Contact's title: _____

Contact's company: _____

Contact's mailing address: _____

Contact's email address: _____

Contact's phone number: _____

Nominating executive

Applicants must be nominated by someone from the same organization (regardless of gender) who is at the EVP level or above and who mentors or directly manages them.

Please identify the executive who is supporting this application here.

Nominating executive's name: _____

Nominating executive's title: _____

Nominating executive's company: _____

Nominating executive's mailing address: _____

Nominating executive's email address: _____

Nominating executive's phone number: _____

In this space the executive should explain the reason they believe the nominee has C-suite potential and share some details about what the nominee has done to inspire this belief.

(max. 1,500 characters, including spaces)

If you prefer to attach a letter from the executive instead, please use the space above to note that a letter is attached. In addition, please copy and paste one paragraph from the letter as an excerpt.

About your organization:

Please provide the following information about the organization.

Organization's website: _____

Organization's Twitter handle: _____

Organization's LinkedIn: _____

Organization's Facebook: _____

About the nominee

Please provide the following background information about the nominee.

Employed by this organization since (month and year): _____

In current role since (month and year): _____

Number of years in the payments industry: _____

To whom does the candidate report (name, title): _____

Does the candidate manage employees?: Yes No

If so, how many direct reports does she have? _____

Education: _____

Previous roles at this firm or other firms (please list): _____

Please provide a brief description of the candidate's role and responsibilities.

(max. 750 characters, including spaces)

Individual Contributions

Applicants for this honor must have been a key player in at least one initiative for the organization at some point over the previous 18 months. Tell us about this initiative, the candidate’s involvement in it, and the results. What is the impact of this initiative on the organization (whether on the bottom line or otherwise)?

(max. 2,000 characters, including spaces)

Note: If including information here that may not be published, please SAY THIS within the narrative provided. For example: As a result of the project Mary Smith initiated and led, the merchant onboarding rate grew by 21%. (Exact figure may not be published; double-digit percentage is OK to publish.)

How has the candidate demonstrated leadership and strong performance beyond the initiative detailed above?

Questions to consider in answering: Is there a specific incident you can cite? Did she set herself apart from peers on a difficult assignment? Did she pitch an innovative idea? It is less helpful if the narrative is general – the more specific, the better.

(max. 1,000 characters, including spaces)

The following questions should be answered by the candidate in her own voice. Please choose at least two. Answering all three is optional.

Please identify a pivotal mentor, sponsor, colleague or boss at your current company (this can be the nominating executive or someone else) and tell us a brief story about how they have been pivotal. Has this person helped you advance your career, taught you something about navigating the workplace or being a leader, or influenced you in some other way?

(max. 750 characters, including spaces)

Name of the person referenced above _____

Email for the person referenced above _____

Describe the biggest challenges you faced when remote working went into effect, personally or professionally, and how did you solve it?

(max. 750 characters, including spaces)

Many companies in the financial services sector have had internal women's networks for decades and say that they are committed to diversifying – yet gender and racial imbalance in the senior ranks persists. The events of 2020 have given these efforts a renewed sense of urgency and higher prioritization. Is there one tangible step – not words spoken, but an action taken – that you have seen happen this past year that you expect more than any other to speed up what has been an agonizingly slow process to change what the industry looks like at the top? In your view, what is one other key tangible action that, if widely deployed, would have an impact on moving the needle forward?

(max. 750 characters, including spaces)

Optional

These questions are entirely optional. Please feel free to answer both, one, or none. It is an opportunity to share more about yourself with us if you would like to.

What do you think is the most important quality for leaders to have and why? Is it a different quality than what you would have cited a year ago?

(max. 500 characters, including spaces)

Looking five years out, where do you hope to be career-wise? Would you like your title to be at that point? Looking further ahead, what is your ultimate career goal? Has it changed from what it was, say, five years ago? If so, why?

(max. 500 characters, including spaces)

The following questions have no bearing on the judging and only come into play for planning coverage of the Most Influential Women: NEXT in the magazine and online.

Invitation to pitch an op-ed

We are looking for a few executives to contribute an op-ed. These op-eds are an opportunity to showcase some thought leadership on a topic of interest to you (whether that is a topic related to your work or a topic that fits in with other relevant themes, such as leadership, power, workplace dynamics, sponsorship, unconscious bias, male allies, or the role of HR/benefits, just to name a few). All of our op-eds have to meet our editorial standards and go through an editing process. If you would like to write something, please indicate your interest here, and in due time we'll send an email to some of the honorees asking for more details on the piece you'd like to propose.

I'd be willing to write an op-ed. _____

If you want to provide any additional notes on the above, you can do so here:

Are you a strong podcast candidate? Let us know.

We are looking for a few executives to take part in podcasts and video interviews. These are very much like any traditional interview and the conversation can run the gamut (big-picture industry topics, projects you are working on, leadership challenges, personal, etc.). If you are interested, please indicate so here and in due time we'll reach out to some of the honorees via email about the potential opportunity.

I'd be willing to take part in a podcast or video interview. _____

If you want to provide any additional notes on the above, you can do so here:

Attachments

Here is a list of supplementary information that should be uploaded to complete this application. The total number of attachments should not exceed five.

Important: Please upload a single .zip file with all submitted photo(s) and supporting material(s), rather than many separate files.

Photo(s)

We need at least one recent photo of the nominee. (A second photo is optional.)

To be suitable for publishing online and in print, photos must be large enough (typically at least 2MBs) and high resolution (300 dpi recommended). Supported formats include .jpg, .png, and .gif.

Please consider submitting an "environmental" type of photo in addition to a typical headshot. "Enviros" show more of the person (not just the head and shoulders), and generally, though not always, include some background.

Photos should be of the individual herself, not a group shot.

Supporting document(s)

One or two other supporting documents can be included, but this is entirely optional.