



Meet the Executive Leadership Awards honorees.

ACBJ

Meet the 2026 Executive Leadership Awards honorees

Good leadership happens at all levels of business.

That's the principle behind the Baltimore Business Journal's Executive Leadership Awards program, which is making its debut this year. The program replaces our long-running CEO of the Year and the Power 10 awards, which largely recognized top leaders at some of the region's biggest organizations. While those organizations are still well represented in this new iteration, increasing the number of honorees gave us a chance to recognize a wider swath of leaders from across the C-suite and at organizations of all sizes.

We received over 110 nominations for the inaugural awards. The BBJ editorial staff narrowed that down to 20 honorees and picked our Executive of the Year, Neil Meltzer, the outgoing CEO of LifeBridge Health. This year's class includes C-suite leaders from Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. and the University of Maryland, Baltimore; the head of a

family-owned packaging business; a CEO who built his construction firm from the ground up; the founder of an IT company who proudly takes the title of "chief nerd" and many more.

Read on to learn a little bit more about these extraordinary leaders and how they got to where they are today.

– *Jessica Iannetta, Editor-in-Chief*

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