

# NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

2025 IEEE COMPUTER SOCIETY/  
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INSTITUTE  
WATTS S. HUMPHREY SOFTWARE QUALITY AWARD

Since 1994, the SEI and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Computer Society have cosponsored the Watts S. Humphrey Software Quality Award, which recognizes outstanding achievements in improving an organization's ability to create and evolve high-quality software-dependent systems.

Humphrey Award nominees must have demonstrated an exceptional degree of **significant**, **measured**, **sustained**, and **shared** productivity improvement.

**TO NOMINATE YOURSELF OR A COLLEAGUE, GO TO**  
[computer.org/volunteering/awards/humphrey-software-quality](https://computer.org/volunteering/awards/humphrey-software-quality)

*Nominations due by September 1, 2024.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[resources.sei.cmu.edu/news-events/events/watts](https://resources.sei.cmu.edu/news-events/events/watts)

## Each nomination must meet these criteria

To be **significant**, the work must have a demonstrated impact on the target organizations' software engineering results (e.g., productivity increases, defect density for software reaching integration and test decreases, or rework percentage decreases, and by how much). It should also consider, as pertinent, the impact on the target organizations' management, workforce, and system development and maintenance processes (e.g., cycle time to address emergency tickets decreases and percentage of tickets correctly fixed on first try increases, and by how much).

To be **measured**, the work must include the collection of data used to guide the work and clearly demonstrate its impact. Concrete software engineering process improvement goals, factors, and metrics must be defined. The work must involve assessing the cause-and-effect relationship between changes (e.g., to the organization's processes, training, and tools) and their impact (to reduce defect density, reduce cycle time, or increase productivity).

To be **sustained**, the work must lead to a continuing impact on the target organizations' software engineering activities. In particular, the work should result in well-documented artifacts (e.g., in the form of coaching, training, tools, measures, and obtaining feedback on changes) that ensure the improvements are institutionalized and provide long lasting effects.

To be **shared**, the insights, experiences, and proven practices stemming from the work must have been made available beyond the target organizations. This could, for example, be throughout software engineering communities in which the nominee and target organizations participate. It could, additionally or alternatively, be to other parts of larger organizations within which the target organizations are subunits.

**To nominate yourself or a colleague, go to [computer.org/volunteering/awards/humphrey-software-quality](https://www.computer.org/volunteering/awards/humphrey-software-quality)**