

# 2024 ACUP+ Awards

We invite all ACUP+ members to gather your amazing entries and submit them for our annual awards!

Institutions may submit one entry per category, with 24 categories overall in the areas of shop/management initiatives and production excellence.

To be eligible you must be a current ACUP+ member and there is no fee to enter.

Please be sure to completely fill out the submission entry cover sheet for each submission.

## How to Enter

- A separate entry form is required for each submission.
- Awards are open to all ACUP+ members. You do not have to attend the annual conference to enter and/or win.
- Submit entries to as many categories as you wish, but you may only enter each category once and cannot submit the same entry in more than one category.
- **Entries must have been accomplished or produced January 1-December 31, 2023.**
- **Entries must be post or courier marked by Tuesday, January 9, 2024.**

## Impression Awards

ACUP+ Impression awards span seven categories: Collaborative Service, Green Service, Accelerated Service, Distinctive Service, Impact WOW+, ACUP+ Achiever, and ACUP+ Hall of Fame.

Provide a brief narrative describing an effort your shop accomplished in 2023 related to the specific category entered. Be specific regarding the challenge or initiative you took and the achieved results. You can enter any or all categories *but each individual submission may only be entered once and only in one category.*

For the categories of ACUP+ Achiever and ACUP+ Hall of Fame, you may nominate one of your peers from a member shop.

**SUBMIT a PDF of your entry form and additional documents/description along with any photos that help demonstrate the initiative/project.**

All impression awards should be submitted via email to June Lewis [awards-entry@acup-edu.org](mailto:awards-entry@acup-edu.org).

## Production Awards

Digital Production entries in the categories of Single Page, Multiple Page, and Multiple Piece will be further evaluated for two award subcategories: "Small shop" and "Large Shop". Please include your # FTE on the submission form. *Your FTE# (Full Time Equivalent) is a full-time employee with student or part-time help counted as .5 FTE.*

Production submission evaluation for all Offset, Graphic Design, Specialty Printed Products, Decals/Stickers, Operation/Shop Promotion, and Wide Format will not differentiate between small/large shop.

Please note: The majority of the production entry must have been completed in-house. Please be specific when explaining any elements of the project that were outsourced.

**Entry form submission for the Production Awards must be sent through USPS or other courier/express service to:**

June Lewis  
Kellogg Community College  
450 North Ave  
Battle Creek, MI 49017  
Contact Phone: 269.660.2379

## Judging

All entries will be judged by a panel of ACUP+ board members and industry peers, when available, during the annual ACUP+ strategic planning meeting. A guide to general judging criteria for all production categories is attached. If a member of the judging panel is from an institution with a submission in any category, they are excluded from participating in the judging for that category.

## Awards Presentation

We will announce the winners at the annual ACUP+ conference on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at our Gala Dinner and Awards Program. You need not be present to win. Awards will be mailed to the winning members that can't personally accept an award at the conference.

## Deadline Reminder

All submissions must be postmarked or courier marked by **Tuesday, January 9, 2024**.

### QUESTIONS?

[admindirector@acup-edu.org](mailto:admindirector@acup-edu.org) | 269.558.3027

# ACUP+ Award Entry Criteria for Judging Production Entries

## **Offset or Digital Production Output, single or multi-color** ~ *Reviewing:*

- Holes and missing dots in solids, spots or specks
- Poor ink or toner coverage or color variation from page to page or piece to piece
- Image quality, color balance and consistency
- Resolution of photos, dot gain or shrinkage
- Registration of each color, consistency page to page
- Accurate folding, cracking or against the grain with no scoring
- Track or streak marks from equipment
- Page to page text and image cross-overs
- Inserts fit correctly
- Finishing mistakes such as dull blades, wrong gauge or length of wire, excess glue
- Substrate selection appropriate for production methods

## **Graphic Design** ~ *Reviewing:*

- Design—relationship and flow between the elements
- Innovation—does the design stand out
- Creativity—skill in invoking mood and sending clear message
- Technical—elements appropriate and well thought to enhance the topic
- Production—output without flaws to take away from the design
- Typography—naturally and easily draws in and holds the reader's attention

## **Specialty Printed Products** ~ *Reviewing:*

- Production—output without flaws
- Image quality, color balance and consistency
- Technical—elements appropriate and well thought to enhance the topic
- Substrate selection appropriate for production methods

## **Decals or Stickers** ~ *Reviewing:*

- Production—output without flaws
- Image quality, color balance and consistency
- Technical—elements appropriate and well thought to enhance the topic
- Substrate selection appropriate for production methods
- Functionality—ease of use
- Clean cuts, sharp lines

## **Operation / Shop Self-Promotion** ~ *Reviewing:*

- Creativity—skill in invoking mood and sending clear message
- Technical—elements appropriate and well thought out to enhance the topic
- Substrate selection appropriate for production methods
- Production—output without flaws

## **Wide Format: Banners / Displays / Posters / Canvas / Fabrics** ~ *Reviewing:*

- Must be produced on traditional wide format equipment
- Technical—elements appropriate and well thought to enhance the topic
- Production—output without flaws
- Finishing such as hems, grommets
- Substrate selection appropriate for production methods

## **Wide Format: Adhesive Graphics / Wraps** ~ *Reviewing:*

- Must be produced on traditional wide format equipment
- Production—output without flaws
- Substrate selection appropriate for production methods
- Technical—elements installation difficulty, surface
- Finished impact on space
- Functionality—ease of use, safety, maintenance, etc.

## **Wide Format: Rigid Substrates** ~ *Reviewing:*

- Must be printed directly onto rigid substrates
- Technical—elements appropriate and well thought to enhance the topic
- Production—output without flaws
- Finishing such as trimming
- Substrate selection appropriate for production methods
- Functionality—ease of use, safety, maintenance, etc.

# ACUP+ Impression Awards

Submit a paragraph or two describing an effort you accomplished in 2023 related to the specific award category entered. Be specific regarding the challenge or initiative you took and the achieved results. You can enter any or all categories *but each individual submission may only be entered once and only in one category.*

**SUBMIT a PDF of your entry form and additional documents/description along with any photos that help demonstrate the initiative/project.**

Email your Impression Award submissions to:  
[awards-entry@acup-edu.org](mailto:awards-entry@acup-edu.org)

## Collaborative Service

Significant institutional contribution working with another unit to achieve a goal. How did you discover an opportunity and assist a unit with a solution which benefited your institution?

## Green Service

Instituted changes in operations which impacted recyclable, renewable, and sustainable environmental resources; or communicated your green efforts to your customers. What adjustments did you implement that increased your green reputation?

## Accelerated Service

Successfully accomplished an extreme production deadline. Why was your mission impossible and how did you make it happen?

## Distinctive Service

Achieved innovative goals for growth while continuing operational production demands. How did you continue daily production while implementing drastic changes such as new equipment installs, plant moves, or reorganization?

## Impact WOW+

Significant institutional contribution that brought your operation recognition and the WOW+ factor from campus departments. This will be a project that you've accomplished that **doesn't fit into other categories**. Describe the entire project, how it was accomplished, who was involved, and what the end result was. This category does not require a production sample but you may provide samples, photos or video.

## ACUP+ Achiever: *Please nominate a fellow member!*

ACUP+ member that demonstrates contributions and support that positively impact the ACUP organization throughout the year. How did this person contribute and what was achieved for the good of the association?

## ACUP+ Hall of Fame: *Please nominate a fellow member!*

In-plant managers who exemplify the highest standards of service to their institutions along with contributions to the ACUP+ organization and the in-plant community as a whole. Have you run an operation while sharing your knowledge with other in-plants, contributing for the better of the industry? Nominate a colleague if you'd like to see special recognition for a mentor or retired ACUP+ member.

# ACUP+ Impression Awards Entry Form

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Select the entry category (complete one entry form per category)**

## ACUP Impression Awards

- Collaborative Service
- Green Service
- Accelerated Service
- Distinctive Service
- Impact WOW+ Service

## Please tell us about your Impression Award submission.

Please attach a narrative describing the initiative you or your team took and the specific results gained. ACUP+ Achiever and ACUP+ Hall of Fame nominations should include information about the individual and a description of their accomplishments/contributions relevant to the award for which they are being nominated.

# ACUP+ Achiever and Hall of Fame Award Entry Form

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Select the entry category (complete one entry form per category)**

## ACUP Achiever or Hall of Fame Awards

- ACUP+ Achiever
- ACUP+ Hall of Fame

**For Achiever or Hall of Fame, I am nominating:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please tell us about your Achiever or Hall of Fame nominee.**

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# ACUP+ Production Awards

Judges will select a Platinum winner and Gold winner for both Small and Large Shops for all Digital Production Entries. All other categories will consist of one Platinum and one Gold winner regardless of shop size.

Only ONE submission per category from an organization and the same piece may NOT be entered in multiple categories. Entering the same piece in two categories will disqualify both entries.

Be sure to include a completed award submission form and attach it to your entry. Include two samples of the completed production piece (*produced in your operation*) for review.

In the Wide Format category include 1 printed sample—If your entry is large such as a vehicle wrap or building cling please supply a sample of the output on the actual media used, photos or video of the entry installation and end results.

## Offset Production Output

1. **Single Page:** item is a *single component and a single page*, such as stationery, flyer, brochure, mailers, posters, single page calendar
2. **Multiple Page:** item is a *single component, with multiple pages*, such as newsletters, booklets, catalogs, multiple page calendars
3. **Multiple Piece Projects:** projects that have *multiple printed components*, such as invites or cards with envelopes, programs and tickets, etc. (all pieces must be produced offset)

## Digital Production Output

4. **Single Page:** item is a *single component and a single page*, such as stationery, flyer, brochure, mailers, posters, single page calendar
5. **Multiple Page:** item is a *single component, with multiple pages*, such as newsletters, booklets, catalogs, multiple page calendars
6. **Multiple Piece:** projects that have *multiple printed components*, such as invites or cards with envelopes, programs and tickets, etc. (all pieces must be produced digitally)

## Any Production Output

7. **Graphic Design:** such as project collaborated and created for client, designed by in-plant design staff
8. **Specialty Printed Products:** such as products such as garment, 3D, or sublimation printing produced in-house
9. **Decals or Stickers**
10. **Operation/Shop Self Promotion:** such as items such as calendars, sample booklets, merchandise, etc. specifically designed to promote the in-plant shop to customers. All items must be produced in-house.

## Wide Format

11. **Banner, Displays, Canvas, & Fabric:** such as roll-up or pop-up displays, standard or pole banners, canvas or other fabric products, signage/flags
12. **Posters:** such as mounted or unmounted
13. **Adhesive Graphics/Wraps:** such as floor, window, or wall graphics; vehicle wraps
14. **Rigid Substrates:** such as hard surface materials such as coroplast, acrylic, composite material, wood, metal, PVC

## \*\*Best of Show\*\*

This will be selected by the judges from all entries and announced at the ACUP+ annual conference during the gala dinner and awards ceremony.

## \*\*Peoples' Choice\*\*

This will be selected from all entries that are displayed at the ACUP+ annual conference by attendees and announced at the ACUP+ annual conference during the gala dinner and awards ceremony.

# ACUP+ Production Awards Entry Form

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of employees in your operation dealing directly with print production on a consistent basis (graphic design, output, finishing).** One full-time employee equals one FTE, with student or part-time help counted as .5 FTE per employee.

\_\_\_\_\_ **FTE # production employees**

## Select Entry Category

- Complete a separate entry form for each submission/category.
- Any piece can *ONLY* be entered in one category. Offset and digital entries cannot be a mixture of the two printing processes for the entry category.

### OFFSET

- Single Page       Multiple Page       Multiple Piece

### DIGITAL

- Single Page       Multiple Page       Multiple Piece

### WIDE FORMAT

- Posters       Banners, Displays, Canvas, & Fabrics
- Rigid Substrates       Adhesive Graphics / Wraps

- Graphic Design
- Specialty Printed Products
- Decals / Stickers
- Operation / Shop Promotion



# IMPORTANT!

- Fill out the requested information section completely. Additional pages may be attached if needed to provide all relevant information.
- Please explain any elements of the project that were outsourced.
- Include 2 printed samples with the entry form with the exception of wide format (see below).
- **Wide Format entries:** Include one printed sample. If your entry is large such as a vehicle wrap or extensive wall/window graphic, please include a sample of the output on the media used for the actual project in addition to photos or video of the entry installation and end results. Hardware such as banner stands do not need to be submitted. For rigid signage larger than 24 x 18, please submit photos and a reduced sized replica of the actual piece produced.

## Please Tell Us About Your Production Award Entry

Title of Piece: \_\_\_\_\_

Components of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Quantity Produced: \_\_\_\_\_

Ink    Toner    Injet Process: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain any elements of the project that were outsourced and to what degree. Please be specific. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Material(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment used (press/digital device; bindery/finishing): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Special techniques used and any additional information (*attach additional pages if needed*): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Entry form submission for the Production Awards must be postmarked or courier marked by Tuesday, January 9, 2024. Send to:**

June Lewis  
Kellogg Community College  
450 North Ave.  
Battle Creek, MI 49017  
Contact Phone: 269.660.2379



