



JIM WALTON COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD **2026**


Presented by ACCELERATION by design LLC
in partnership with the
2026 Stand Up Rural America Summit





JIM WALTON COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

It is a privilege to announce that nominations are open for the 2026 Jim Walton Community Impact Award.



Jim Walton, Founder of Brand Acceleration, was the consummate champion of Rural America. For his entire career, he was a dreamer, pusher, instigator and believer for rural communities all across the USA. He epitomized the "can-do" spirit of those who live and work in Rural America. We are proud to recognize other changemakers, trailblazers and catalysts who have gone above and beyond the norm to create positive change in their communities or regions.



We celebrate his never-ending contribution to reinvigorate, revitalize and promote Rural America with the establishment of the Jim Walton Community Impact Award. This honor is awarded annually at the Stand Up Rural America Summit to a deserving individual, team or organization who epitomizes Jim's "going the extra mile is always worth it" attitude.



NOMINATION CRITERIA

The individual, team or organization nominated for this award will exemplify the following characteristics:

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- Be a **Champion** of Rural America in words and actions;
 - Be a **Catalyst** for tangible growth in your community or region;
 - Be a **Supporter** of Economic Development, Community Development, Tourism Development, Workforce Development, Downtown Revitalization, Business Retention & Expansion or Entrepreneurship in your community or region;
 - Has gone "**above and beyond**" to create positive action and sustainable growth; and
 - Has displayed traits that are admirable, has honored the legacy of the community or region and is a proud **Advocate** for Rural America and all that it stands for.

NOMINATION PROCESS

To submit a nomination for the Jim Walton Community Impact Award, please provide the following information:

1 | NAME & CONTACT INFO FOR NOMINATOR

Please provide the contact information of the nominator. This information will be kept confidential, upon request.

2 | INTRODUCE THE NOMINEE

Describe in TWO (2) page the nominated individual, team or organization, the reason for the nomination and how they have made a positive impact on the community or region. Please follow the five characteristics & criteria described above.

3 | PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL INFO

You may attach up to three (3) additional items to support the nomination including, pertinent links, articles, photos, video, etc.

4 | SUBMIT NOMINATION

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, July 10 2026 at 5:00 pm CST.**

Please forward all nominations to:
ACCELERATION by design LLC
Attn: Lorie Vincent
lorie@accelerationbydesign.com

A confirmation will be provided immediately upon receipt of nomination materials.

Award winner(s) will be alerted on July 13, 2026 in order to facilitate travel arrangements.

RECIPIENT RECOGNITION

The award winner will be recognized at the 2026 Stand Up Rural America Summit in Lake City, Florida on Wednesday, July 29 at 1:15 pm, either in person or by video.

The winner will receive the following award benefits:

- A **\$500 donation** to the charity, non-profit organization or program of their choice. Award donated by Acceleration by design LLC;
- Up to Two (2) **complimentary registrations** to the 2026 Stand Up Rural America Summit;
- A special **personalized award**;
- A special customized **award video**, which will be shared with the nominating community or organization;
- **Recognition on social media** and archived on the Summit website.

OPTIONAL:

The Awards Committee MAY choose up to two (2) Honorable Mention finalists. Honorable Mention Awards are not guaranteed and will be provided only at the discretion of the Committee. If awarded, the Honorable Mention awardees will receive:

- One (1) **complimentary registration** to the 2026 Stand Up Rural America Summit;
- **Recognition** at the 2026 Summit;
- **Social media recognition** and archived on the Summit website.

**DEADLINE TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS IS
FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026 AT 5:00 PM**