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ACLCA Honors 2026 Leaders Demonstrating the Impact of Life Cycle Assessment

Annual LCA Awards recognize leadership and impact across industry, consulting, academia, government and the next generation of LCA professionals

SAN DIEGO, Calif., September 16, 2026 — The American Center for Life Cycle Assessment (ACLCA) today announced the recipients of its 2026 LCA Awards during its annual LCA conference in San Diego, recognizing individuals and organizations advancing the science, practice and real-world impact of life cycle assessment (LCA).

LCA provides evidence to understand environmental impacts and tradeoffs and bring that information into consequential decisions—from technology development and product design to materials, manufacturing, environmental disclosure and public-sector research. This year's recipients demonstrate that value across industry, consulting, academia and government while strengthening the knowledge and professional capacity behind the field.

"Life cycle assessment is most valuable when rigorous environmental information can inform better decisions," said Connie Hensler, Board Chair of ACLCA. "This year's award recipients demonstrate what that looks like in practice, strengthening the methods and credibility behind life cycle information, bringing LCA into technology and product decisions, applying life cycle thinking within industry and government, and preparing the people who will carry this work forward. ACLCA is proud to recognize the individuals and organizations advancing both the practice and impact of LCA."

Rita Schenck Lifetime Individual LCA Leadership Award

Terrie Boguski, Harmony Environmental

Terrie Boguski's career spans more than three decades in LCA, from helping establish formative approaches to data collection and modeling to supporting the credibility of today's life cycle information through independent review and verification.

Boguski, President and Owner of Harmony Environmental, began her LCA career in 1989 at Franklin Associates, where she helped develop formative standards for LCA data collection and modeling. She founded Harmony Environmental in 2007 and today focuses on critical review of LCAs and verification of Product Category Rules (PCRs) and Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). She has served as a contracted reviewer for Smart EPD, Sustainable Minds, NSF and ASTM and as an approved independent verifier for the International EPD System.

Within ACLCA, Boguski serves on the PCR Committee, presenting at annual conferences and co-authoring multiple PCR Committee working papers.

The Rita Schenck Lifetime Individual LCA Leadership Award recognizes long-term engagement with the LCA community and significant career contributions to the field.

Michael Levy Rising Star Award

Rui Shi, Penn State University

Some of the most consequential decisions about an emerging technology happen before it reaches commercial scale. Rui Shi, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering at Penn State, is developing tools to bring LCA into that earlier decision-making process, when the opportunity to change course is greatest. Her research integrates LCA with engineering design, process simulation, techno-economic analysis, and uncertainty analysis to identify environmental trade-offs and determine where changes in technology design can make the greatest difference.

At Penn State, her research group develops LCA frameworks and applies these integrated approaches across biorefineries, plastics recycling, alternative proteins, and critical mineral recovery. Across these areas, her research has established a common systems-analysis framework that shifts sustainability assessment from retrospective evaluation to prospective decision support for comparing development pathways, identifying system-level bottlenecks, and prioritizing R&D efforts early in the development process.

She teaches LCA at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and has developed microcredentials through the NSF Research Traineeship program. Through her research, student mentorship, and open-source tool development, she is preparing the next

generation of engineers to apply life cycle thinking to research and practice.

The Michael Levy Rising Star Award recognizes an emerging LCA leader whose work demonstrates strong potential for continued impact on the profession.

Corporate LCA Leadership Award

Lockheed Martin

Lockheed Martin's sustainability program promotes innovation, integrity and security across its platforms and services to keep the world safe today and in the future.

Sustainability is part of Lockheed Martin's business strategy, which shapes its mission and informs its choices. The company seeks to improve global society in a way that respects and ultimately benefits people, communities and the planet; advances technological and economic development; and fosters physical security. Its Sustainability Management Plan provides the framework for this integration, guided by its corporate Sustainability Policy.

As part of the Sustainability Management Plan, resilient design is Lockheed Martin's approach to circularizing product systems, retaining value by keeping materials in their highest utility throughout the product life cycle. The resilient design approach focuses on improving processes and efficiencies, expanding the durability and lifecycle of products, and integrating sustainable elements into design to benefit customers, the business and the environment.

By designing systems, components and assemblies to maximize material efficiency—such as renewable or recyclable materials, simplified part counts, and planning for remanufacture and recycling—Lockheed Martin can reduce life cycle costs and meet increasingly stringent environmental and regulatory expectations of its programs.

Christopher Richard, Ph.D., LM Fellow for Climate and Data Science, accepted the award on the company's behalf.

The Corporate LCA Leadership Award recognizes leadership in bringing life cycle thinking into industry to inform decisions and create meaningful change within the business community.

Government LCA Leadership Award

National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR)

The National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR) demonstrates how life cycle thinking and rigorous analysis can support complex industrial and public-sector challenges.

The award was accepted by Alberta “Birdie” Carpenter, Distinguished Member of Research Staff and Senior Researcher in NLR’s Strategic Energy Analysis Center, where she leads analysis focused on industrial technology analysis, resource efficiency strategies, and technology adoption strategies. Carpenter also leads the Enabling Activities group for the U.S. Department of Energy’s METALLIC user facility, providing cross-cutting analysis, data and characterization support.

The Government LCA Leadership Award recognizes leadership in advancing LCA and life cycle thinking within the public sector.

Education LCA Leadership Award

Reed Miller, Ph.D., University of Maine

The value of LCA depends not only on methods and data, but on practitioners who know how to apply them. Reed Miller, Assistant Professor in the University of Maine’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is helping build that capacity by preparing students and practicing engineers to understand and use LCA.

Miller has taught Industrial Ecology, Input-Output LCA, Process-Based LCA and Engineering Decisions to students at Yale School of the Environment and the University of Maine and is launching an online micro-credential introducing practicing engineers to LCA and EPDs. His students apply LCA across subjects ranging from advanced drinking water treatment and concrete mixes to cellulose nanomaterials and composite bridges.

Miller received the Maine College of Engineering and Computing’s Early Career Teaching Award in 2025 and has served on the International Society for Industrial Ecology’s Education Committee since 2023.

The Education LCA Leadership Award recognizes individuals who expand the understanding and application of LCA through education and prepare the next generation of practitioners.

Student LCA Leadership Award

Quintino Medi, Clemson University

Technical evidence creates value when it reaches the people positioned to act on it. Quintino Medi, a doctoral student at Clemson University, brings that perspective to research grounded in science diplomacy, connecting scientific evidence with

communities, policymakers and practitioners.

Medi has also served as an ACLCA conference student volunteer for the past three years, an engagement the ACLCA Awards Committee cited as reflecting the spirit of the award.

The Student LCA Leadership Award recognizes a student's growing contribution to LCA and life cycle thinking.

About ACLCA

The American Center for Life Cycle Assessment (ACLCA) advances life cycle assessment by convening the full LCA community—industry, consulting, academia, government and the next generation of practitioners, to strengthen the science, practice and impact of LCA.

Through technical leadership, professional education and collaboration, ACLCA connects the people and organizations shaping the field and builds professional capacity through its LCACP, CLAR and CLE certification programs. ACLCA also develops resources that strengthen LCA practice and the credibility of life cycle information, including the ACLCA PCR Open Standard, and convenes the LCA community through its annual conference and year-round programming.

For more information about ACLCA and the 2026 LCA Awards, visit aclca.org.

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