Interplay Excellence Awards

What makes a strong submission?

1. **Anchor the submission to the award category:** A strong nomination clearly connects to the category's purpose.

2. **Answer all the questions.**

3. **Tell a clear story to the judges:** The best submissions are specific and include concrete details (who was trained, how many learners participated, how long the program has been running, and what outcomes were achieved). It should read like a clear success story. A short "before and after" narrative makes the nomination compelling and easy to evaluate.

   - What challenge were you facing?
   - What training did you implement/how?
   - What changed as a result?

4. **Show what makes the program unique:** Highlight what made your approach stand out (creative rollout, program structure, leadership involvement, creating incentives, etc.)

5. **Focus on impact:** Explain how the program benefited learners, employees, and the organization. ***Use specific examples***: Include written testimonials, real learner/employee/community success stories, or anecdotes that bring the impact to life.

6. **Include data/results when possible:** Judges will naturally gravitate toward submissions that include real results.

Strong examples:

- Reduced onboarding time from X weeks to Y weeks
- Increased course completions by X%
- Increased job placements X% over last year
- Improved training participation across multiple sites
- Increased internal promotions or certifications earned
- Reduced callbacks, third-party calls, incidents, rework, or safety violations
- Improved retention or recruitment outcomes
- Improved employee/customer survey results

*If exact numbers aren't available, directional proof still helps ("cut ramp time nearly in half").