



**AHMP Young Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year Award/Cover Sheet**

	<b>Nominator</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
<b>Name:</b> <b>Address:</b>  <b>Phone:</b> <b>Email:</b>	<b>Amber Steed</b> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 100px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	<b>Aaron Stern</b> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 100px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>

Please include a digital photograph of the nominee with this submittal.

=====DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE=====

**Reviewer's Name:**

**Review Date:**

This award is given to an outstanding Professional Member of AHMP **under the age of 35** who, in the award year, has made extraordinary technical, professional, educational, training, and/or administrative contributions to the EHS&S field and to AHMP and/or its chapters, while promoting the AHMP Strategic Plan. This award includes a one-year exemption from AHMP dues. *NOTE: Nominators and reviewers must be provided with the AHMP Strategic Plan.*

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Scoring Method</b>	<b>Reviewer's Score</b>
1. Is the nominee under the age of 35?	Yes / No	
2. Does the data provided cover the previous calendar year?	Yes / No	
3. Does the data provided demonstrate extraordinary technical, professional, educational, training, and/or administrative contributions to the EHS&S field?	Yes / No	
4. Does the data provided demonstrate extraordinary technical, professional, educational, training, and/or administrative contributions to the AHMP and/or its chapters?	Yes / No	
5. Does the data provided demonstrate that the nominee promotes the AHMP Strategic Plan?	Yes / No	
6. Does this nominee meet the minimum requirements for this award?	Yes / No	

7. In your opinion, what is this nominee's ranking compared to the other nominees for this award?	1 <sup>st</sup> place to <i>n</i> <sup>th</sup> place	
---	--	--



April 29, 2020

To the AHMP Awards Committee:

I would like to nominate Mr. Aaron Stern for the Young Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year Award for 2019. I met Aaron for the first time virtually during the January 2019 AHMP Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting in Atlanta. He presented a Business Plan, which I discuss in more detail below, to the BOD that was beyond impressive. I knew right away from his professionalism, his composure, and his passion for the topic that he was going to be an important part of our organization in the future.

During that meeting, the Young Professionals Committee was formed, Aaron was asked to be Chair, and I was asked to be the BOD Liaison for the Committee. Aaron and I have worked together now for 1.5 years and I have gotten to know him very well. I have seen him get excited about AHMP, talk endlessly about new initiatives, and put his all into making things happen for the organization. We have had numerous conference calls, shared hundreds of emails, and even met face-to-face several times despite living miles away. Our goal is the same: increase YPs in AHMP, provide resources and tools they might need, and have fun making these things happen.

Aaron is impressive. If you have met him, you know. He's early into his career, but he's already accomplished a ton. He's not only a CHMM, but he's also an ASP and no doubt one day will become a CSP. He's incredibly well-spoken and very intelligent. Above all, he loves being a hazardous materials professional and truly believes in AHMP.

In determining how to present the Young Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year Award criteria to the Awards Committee, along with providing my own Letter of Recommendation, I decided to combine the two. Below you will see a copy of the first six questions of the Award Criteria listed on the Young Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year Cover Sheet. I took the liberty to provide you with a response to consider as you review and make your selection. In doing so, I provide you with my own personal account and/or refer you to the four additional Letters of Recommendation I received for Aaron on how he qualifies for the Award. At the end, I provide you with my closing thoughts.

1. Is the nominee under the age of 35?

RESPONSE: Yes, Aaron was born in the 1980s decade. Refer to <https://www.ahmpnet.org/members/?id=55490129>.

2. Does the data provided cover the previous calendar year?

RESPONSE: Yes, Aaron was first introduced to the AHMP Board of Directors (BOD) during the Atlanta 2019 BOD 1<sup>st</sup> quarter meeting on 19 January 2019 (see Enclosure 1). He was appointed as chair of the newly created Young Professionals Committee during that meeting.

3. Does the data provided demonstrate extraordinary technical, professional, educational, training, and/or administrative contributions to the EHS&S field?

RESPONSE: Aaron's contributions to the EHS&S field are best summed up by his Linked In biography:

"Sustainability-oriented environmental, health, and safety professional with 10+ years of Federal experience.

Roles:

- Program and project manager
- Facilitator and instructor
- Training specialist
- Auditor
- Data analyst

Experience and background:

- Strategy for sustainability
- Risk assessments
- Environmental compliance
- Hazardous materials and hazardous waste compliance
- Safety and Environmental Management Systems (OHSAS 18001 & ISO 14001)
- Data analyses and visualization (Tableau dashboards)
- Corporate communications
- Training course design and instruction
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessments
- Intercultural business competencies
- Stakeholder analysis, mapping, and engagement
- Associate Safety Professional (ASP)
- Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM)

In my tenure with the U.S. Geological Survey, I have supported the growth of an environmental management program through the development of an Environmental Management System and sustainability initiatives; facilitated a Community of Practice of environmental, health, and safety (EHS) staff; and, designed and hosted a training regime for EHS staff, which includes online training and a 3-day workshop. I am inspired to communicate our progress in sustainability through Tableau data visualizations."

Aaron has received his Bachelor of Science from James Madison University in Integrated Science and Technology. He then received his Masters of Natural Resources from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Environmental Sustainability. While obtaining his Masters he co-authored a case study on Water Resources Management at a Multinational Beverage Manufacturer in Cape Town, South Africa."

4. Does the data provided demonstrate extraordinary technical, professional, educational, training, and/or administrative contributions to the AHMP and/or its chapters?

RESPONSE: Yes, Aaron is not only a member of the National Capital Chapter of AHMP, he is an AHMP member in good standing, a member of the AHMP Finance Committee,

often participates in the Conference Committee, and is Chair of the Young Professionals Committee. His contributions are demonstrated through the letters of recommendation from myself, AHMP Chair Mark Bruce (see Enclosure 2), AHMP Vice-Chair Becky Neal (see Enclosure 3), Professional Development Committee Chair Atanu Das (see Enclosure 4), and IHMM Board Member Robin Spencer (see Enclosure 5).

5. Does the data provided demonstrate that the nominee promotes the AHMP Strategic Plan?

RESPONSE: As stated in the AHMP Strategic Plan, the three STRATEGIC BUZZ WORDS are Premier, Sustainable, & Recognized. Aaron embodies each of these.

Premier – Aaron is the YPC Chair. It is a known issue that our AHMP organization is lacking in younger hazardous materials professionals. The BOD had been discussing this issue when Mark Bruce introduced him at the January 2019 AHMP BOD Meeting. Aaron, working with another YP, presented a Business Plan to the Board. They outlined several innovative initiatives they believed to be important in the growth of our organization and to appeal to YPs. They wanted us to look at 1) organizational sustainability – including demographics, trends in associations, target market, and relevance; 2) Strategies – suggested that we should pursue low hanging fruit first, including social media, topic snapshots, and mentorship. 3) Social media implementation - options include website, YouTube, Twitter, and LinkedIn. As part of this, he made a request to obtain a videographer for the 2019 conference in Atlanta; 4) Topic Snapshots – the snapshots would be a way of branding and also a marketing tool; 5) Mentorship Program – they envisioned this would include a survey to match individuals (early career with senior level); and 6) Online Learning Portal – this would be a PowerPoint video repository where individuals could earn certification maintenance points and would include a peer review group to ensure accuracy of information. Based on his enthusiasm, passion, and vision, Aaron was asked to be the Chair of the newly formed YPC.

Sustainable – Since becoming YPC Chair, Aaron has been going full-steam ahead. Besides maintaining his 40+ hour a week professional job with the USGS and pursuing his personal hobbies, Aaron has been actively involved in the National Capital Chapter of AHMP for the last two years and his remaining free time has been devoted to the YPC. Of the six initiatives presented at the January 2019 BOD meeting, Aaron accomplished and/or set into motion four of them. He reached out to several video teams/videographers to film portions of the 2019 AHMP Conference in Atlanta, GA, to use as promotional materials and brand recognition for future conferences and membership marketing. He specifically wanted to obtain a set of video episodes and a compilation of those video episodes that can be viewed/distributed on social media. He worked alongside the BOD to budget and select the most valuable, yet economic, candidate. He then worked tirelessly at the conference with the videographer to recruit AHMP members to provide testimonials for the video clips. The final clips produced are a testament to Aaron's hard work at selecting the right videographer and directing him onsite to create two short marketing clips for AHMP. These clips have circulated on social media hitting target markets (hitting initiatives 1, 2, and 3 above). To my knowledge, nothing of this nature has been done before for the organization.

Alongside finding a videographer and determining his logistics for the conference, Aaron worked to achieve the fourth initiative – a topic snapshot. For this task, he worked with a group of AHMP members to collectively create the first topic snapshot for the organization that was presented at the 2019 AHMP Conference in Atlanta. The response was overwhelmingly positive and it all started with his pitch to the BOD less than 8 months earlier.

Recognized – Over the last year, Aaron has made a name for himself within AHMP and for AHMP. In the months leading up to the 2019 AHMP Conference in Atlanta, I asked Aaron if he would be willing to sit on a YP Panel and discuss his thoughts on AHMP, the industry, and how that all relates to YPs. He jumped at the chance and did an amazing job promoting AHMP, the topic snapshots, and the YPC. He truly believes in this organization, which can be seen through his passion, his efforts, and his leadership. At the end of 2019, Aaron shared with me a leadership outline he had been working on. His vision is to eventually have it taught as a one to three day class for YPs on how to become leaders in the hazardous materials professional field and AHMP. He is stepping up to attempt to fill a void that has been missing in the organization – attracting new, younger members. Any AHMP member remotely involved in the organization has seen the name ‘Aaron Stern’ and knows his commitment to AHMP.

6. Does this nominee meet the minimum requirements for this award?

RESPONSE: I believe after you have read this letter, along with the letters of several other leaders within AHMP, your response will be yes.

Aaron Stern is a hardworking, dedicated hazardous material professional, who happens to be young. He has chosen to put his efforts, motivation, and talents into AHMP and making it an organization that is premier, sustainable, and recognized. Aaron is innovative, possesses great communications skills, and shows integrity. I believe he is part of the future success of AHMP as he wants to help AHMP maximize our community, voice, knowledge exchange, and management support of hazardous materials professionals to ultimately make our world safer and healthier. I request you support me in my nomination to make Aaron Stern the 2019 Young Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year and recognize him for all the accomplishments he made or set in motion to promote AHMP. Thank you for your efforts and time!

Sincerely,



Amber Steed, CHMM  
AHMP BOD, 2018-2020  
AHMP YPC Board Liaison, 2019-2020

Enclosures (5)

1. Relevant Minutes from AHMP BoD Meeting 1-19-19
2. Mark Bruce Letter of Recommendation
3. Becky Neal Letter of Recommendation
4. Atanu Das Letter of Recommendation
5. Robin Spencer Letter of Recommendation



**AHMP Board of Directors Meeting  
January 19, 2019, Atlanta, Georgia**

**(Minutes Amended for 2019 Young Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year Award  
Submittal)**

- I. ...
- II. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by chair Bruce Donato. A sufficient number of members were present to constitute a quorum.
- III. **Attendance** – The following members were present for the meeting:  

Bruce Donato (BD)	Becky Neal (BN)
Mark Smith (MS)	Mark Bruce (MB)
B.J. Atkins (BJ)	Michael Chuah (MC)
Kelsey Forde (KF)	Carl Heinlein (CH)*
Eric Johnson (EJ)	Linda Lawhorn (LL)
Amber Steed (AS)	Chip Deale (CD)

\*Attended the meeting via remote connection.

...
- IV. **Young Professionals (YP) Presentation - Business Plan Proposal 2019.** Aaron Stern and Liz Williams (in attendance 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM remotely) presented a proposed business plan for 2019. The following topics were covered:
  - a. Goals
  - b. Challenges
  - c. Organizational sustainability – including demographics, trends in associations, target market and relevance.
  - d. Strategies – We should pursue low hanging fruit first, including social media, topic snapshots, and mentorship. Social media presents an opportunity to build community, advertise, and connect with others.
  - e. Social media implementation - options include website, YouTube, Twitter, and LinkedIn. We should refrain from using Facebook. A request was made for videographer at the 2019 conference as part of the business plan.
  - f. Topic Snapshots- An example from EPA was provided. Snapshot is a way of branding and also a marketing tool. A topic snapshot could be posted in a lab or

university. Potential topics that were discussed included Hazcom, accident investigation, Hazwaste handling and spill control.

- g.** Mentorship Program – This would include a survey to match individuals (early career with senior level).
- h.** Online Learning Portal – This would be a PowerPoint video repository where individuals could earn certification maintenance points and would include a peer review group to ensure accuracy of information.

Recommendations and a timeline were presented. A discussion followed the presentation. Some tasks in the business plan could fall under the YP group.

A motion was made to approve the plan in concept by BJ. Motion passed.

CD will send Aaron and Liz an RFP template.

Additional conference call will be scheduled with Liz and Aaron regarding the business plan.

MB will send the slide show to the whole BOD.

Aaron and Liz were thanked for their great presentation.

## **V. Working Groups/Standing and Ad Hoc Committees**

...

YP Group– The YP Committee was approved as an ad hoc committee. Aaron Stern was nominated and approved as the chair. Korey Brunken will be approached as Vice-Chair. AS will serve as the liaison. A charter is requested from the committee for the next BOD.

...

**Adjourn** – The meeting concluded at 3:19 p.m.

April 7, 2020

To the AHMP Awards Committee:

On behalf of the AHMP membership and the Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for the time and effort you offer to the Alliance on a voluntary basis and in assisting us in bringing recognition to those individuals and Chapters who have worked hard to bring excellence to the organization.

A nomination has been made for the 2019 AHMP Young Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year Award and the nominee is Mr. Aaron Stern. I support the nomination made by fellow Board member and friend, Amber Steed, who has selflessly given so much of her time on many AHMP projects, including Board Liaison to the Young Professionals Committee.

Aaron has demonstrated incredible leadership as Committee Chair of the YP Committee over the last year and continues to lead in 2020. Aaron's passion for the success of this group, and for the success of AHMP, is incredible to witness. While there are many milestones to recognize for Aaron and the YP Group, it was his incredible leadership demonstrated in 2019 to bring AHMP its first videography testimonial filmed during the 2019 Atlanta Conference, which will be played throughout the year in 2020 in social media outlets. The resulting two video products were amazing to watch. They show the true symmetry and allure of AHMP to its members and future members.

As you may know, AHMP leadership in 2018 recognized the concern for the sustainability of AHMP and the shrinking demographic of young professionals in our organization. The formation of the YP Committee was an easy decision to make. Thanks to both Amber Steed and Becky Neal for assisting me in the effort to get this concept off the ground. Once established, we needed the forum to be led by someone who was just as passionate with the mission of the YP Group. Aaron Stern was an easy choice. Since Aaron has been asked to lead the Committee, the YP Group has flourished and continues to grow with other like-minded young professionals; professionals who were already AHMP members and those who joined to be part of something special.

I hope you will approve the nomination presented before you for this award to be offered to Aaron Stern. He deserves it and I would be proud and honored to see him receive it.

Respectfully,  
Mark A. Bruce, CHMM  
AHMMP Chair, Board of Directors

To whom it may concern:

When I was approached about supporting Aaron Stern's nomination for Young Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year, I was thrilled and wholeheartedly delighted to contribute. When I put some thought into what Aaron brought to the organization and the profession in 2019, I was a little surprised to realize how recently he joined the organization.

I first met Aaron in mid-2018, when he joined some of the inaugural committee meetings of AHMP's Young Professionals Committee. Aaron quickly dove into our committee initiatives, volunteering to assemble a business plan for the committee to request resources from the AHMP Board of Directors.

I am proud to support the nomination of Aaron Stern for the Young Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year. I have had the privilege of working with Aaron throughout his first year and a half with the Alliance, and I can vouch for his hard work, professionalism, and effectiveness. I can think of very few individuals with a significant impact in such a short time, or professionals of any age that have contributed as much to AHMP in 2019.

- Aaron began 2019 by presenting the AHMP Young Professionals Business Plan at the January 2019 Board Meeting. He gave up part of his Saturday to join the meeting remotely to show the plan and answer questions and address concerns from members of the board.
- As a part of the business plan, Aaron procured funding, solicited bids, selected a vendor, and facilitated the filming of two promotional videos from the 2019 Conference. These materials are a huge leap forward in the resources that we are using to promote the organization to younger professionals.
- As another part of the business plan, Aaron brought together subject matter experts and amateur design volunteers to produce the first AHMP Topic Snapshot. The first snapshot debuted at the 2019 National Conference and presented a new way to demonstrate AHMP's expertise and thought leadership. These snapshots will serve as an additional resource to promote the organization to other professionals and the public.
- Aaron was a leading voice in organizing the first Young Professionals Panel at the 2019 Conference, facilitating dialogue between the young professionals in the organization and the full membership.
- In 2019, under his leadership, the Young Professionals Committee became one of the most productive and impactful groups within AHMP.

If the Young Professional of the Year Award is intended to highlight and recognize individuals that represent the future of AHMP, they can do no better than to honor Aaron Stern for his work in 2019.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Neal, CHMM

AHMP Vice Chair 2019-2020

AHMP Young Professionals Committee Chair 2018

AHMP Young Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year 2013

**From:** [Atanu Das](#)  
**To:** [Steed, Amber C. \[US-US\]](#)  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Recommendation for Aaron  
**Date:** Saturday, April 18, 2020 2:31:27 PM

---

Amber,

Let me know if this will work for the nomination. Thanks,

I first met Aaron Stern at a break out session during the 2019 National Conference in Atlanta on the topic of engaging the younger cohort of our alliance with pertinent member services. Aaron stood out as someone who had a real passion for this topic not only being in this demographic but also with some interesting ideas for addressing the future of AHMP. The seeds of the session later evolved into the formation of the Young Professionals Committee.

It wasn't until I became chair of the Professional Development Committee earlier this year that I began working closely with the YPC and Aaron, the current chair. We've decided to jointly pool our respective committee resources to not only improve on our technical session offerings but also to address the needs of our up and coming professionals to make AHMP the premier association for our industry. Some examples of what we are envisioning for our members are a mentoring program, further development of topic snapshots, adding a new Management Skills track to our technical sessions as well as offering podcasts on EHS topics. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly nominate Aaron as Young Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year.

Sincerely,

Atanu Das, CHMM, SDSRP, IHMM Fellow



ROBIN K. SPENCER

Certified Hazardous Materials Manager  
Registered Environmental Assessor

April 30, 2020

AHMP Awards Committee  
c/o AHMP  
1300 Piccard Dr., Ste. LL14  
Rockville, MD 20850

Subject: Letter of Reference and Support for the Nomination of Aaron Stern  
for the AHMP Young Professional of the Year Award

Dear Award Committee Members:

The Young Professional of the Year award is traditionally awarded to an enthusiastic, driven, young CHMM who stands out from the crowd. Mr. Aaron Stern, indeed, stands out from the crowd and I am very pleased to support his nomination for this award.

I've had the privilege of meeting Mr. Stern only once, however, we've had a few personal telephone calls and we've both participated in Conference Planning Committee calls.

Mr. Stern is the Chair of the Young Professionals Committee. His thoughtful and responsible work on this committee led to our beginning discussions to collaborate through the Hazardous Materials Society and IHMM's proposed student certification. Our conversations began in 2019 and recently (March 2020) led to Mr. Stern attending the IHMM Board of Directors meeting to discuss the Young Professionals' goals and aspirations, and how the Young Professionals could support IHMM's proposed student certification. There was much positive energy shared in that room that day.

During the meeting and during side discussions, Mr. Stern spoke of his participation with the National Capital Chapter and a recent seminar there. I feel that Mr. Stern is an ethical professional working with integrity in the hazardous materials profession and eager to share his knowledge and network to promote the CHMM credential and the AHMP.

Mr. Stern is a serious professional in whom I trusted immediately. He relishes his CHMM and is committed to sharing his hazardous materials management knowledge as he expands into the environmental arena from health and safety.

Mr. Stern, indeed, is certainly an excellent ambassador for the CHMM and I applaud his enthusiasm, ideas, and passion. He is certainly the ideal candidate for the Young Professional of the Year award.



ROBIN K. SPENCER

Certified Hazardous Materials Manager  
Registered Environmental Assessor

Sincerely yours,

Robin K. Spencer, CHMM  
Principal  
IHMM Fellow  
IHMM Board of Directors