



## 2025 SGA Awards Finalists: Chair's Rising Leader

### Entry: Lindsay Freeman: Commitment to Service

Your Company: Kansas Gas Service / ONE Gas

Who would you like to nominate? Lindsay Freeman

*Please describe how this person is driving excellence in the natural gas industry.*

Lindsay Freeman's tenacity and creativity have elevated the reputation of the natural gas industry and Kansas Gas Service, a subsidiary of ONE Gas, since joining the company in 2020. As statewide manager of Community Relations, Lindsay leads a team dedicated to building strong relationships with local governments, businesses and nonprofits across Kansas. In her daily role as a liaison between the company and the cities it serves, she seizes every possible opportunity to educate stakeholders about the safety, affordability and reliability of natural gas. However, her commitment to service and ability to execute a creative vision set Lindsay apart as an industry leader.

After observing the financial impact of the historic Winter Storm Uri in 2021 on Kansans, she created a program to assemble and distribute free weatherization kits to help customers in need. Weatherization kits reduce air leaks in homes, one of the most cost-effective ways to improve energy efficiency and comfort. Now in its fourth year, the program provides resources for residential natural gas customers to reduce their heating expenses and save money for other essentials in their daily lives. Alongside nonprofit partners in the community, Lindsay and her team distribute weatherization boxes that include a window shrink and seal insulation kit, a roll of foam weather-stripping tape, rope caulk and foam outlet sealers. Since the program's inception, nearly 6,500 weatherization kits have been distributed across Kansas. This excellence in customer service and support has not gone unnoticed. Lindsay has been asked to share her model for the weatherization kits program with peer companies, state officials and the American Gas Association. She was recently invited to present to a national audience at the National Energy & Utility Affordability Coalition's (NEUAC) annual meeting to share learnings from the program and model how to help consumers meet their home energy needs.

Additionally, Lindsay is a pivotal liaison to elected officials and civic leaders during natural disasters, such as tornados and winter storms. Her proactive response and clear communication ensure that these stakeholders and the constituents we serve receive clear communications and are connected to support services. Lindsay's commitment to service and involvement in the community extends beyond her professional duties. She serves on several

local boards and is an active member of the Topeka South Rotary, showcasing her passion for community advocacy. She has been recognized as part of “Greater Topeka’s Top 20 Under 40” by Scouting America, a YWCA Woman of Excellence nominee, and a Leadership Greater Topeka Alumni Rising Star award winner. Lindsay's accolades are a testament to her exceptional leadership and devotion to making a positive difference both within the natural gas industry and the communities in which she serves.



## Entry: Donovan Clevenger

Your Company: Atmos Energy

Who would you like to nominate? Donovan Clevenger

*Please describe how this person is driving excellence in the natural gas industry.*

Through exceptional dedication, expertise, and consistently outstanding performance, Donovan Clevenger has distinguished himself as a key contributor to the success of Atmos Energy and the natural gas industry. His leadership, professionalism, and forward-thinking mindset make him a standout candidate for recognition through the 2025 SGA Award Chair's Rising Leader. Donovan's academic foundation is rooted in a Bachelor of Arts in university studies – emphasis in English, exercise sports science, and organizational leadership - from Texas Tech University (2014). He later earned a master's degree in organizational leadership from Columbia Southern University. This academic journey reflects his quest for knowledge and deep commitment to understanding and applying leadership principles, something he brings to life every day at Atmos Energy. In nearly 13 years with Atmos Energy, Donovan has served in multiple roles from service technician to operations in Lubbock and revenue management in Dallas. Each position carried supervisory responsibilities, and Donovan consistently rose to the challenge by demonstrating natural leadership and a strong work ethic.

Now serving as Operations Manager in Plainview, Donovan leads a team of three supervisors who oversee approximately 50 employees across the Amarillo-Lubbock region. Colleagues describe him as "very driven and professional," with a strong ability to connect and build trust. His calm, confident leadership earns respect, even in tough managerial situations requiring complex decision-making. Donovan is known for his humility, accountability, and unwavering positivity. These traits have helped him thrive not only as a leader but also as a communicator. His public speaking skills shine in his role as an AtmoSpirit facilitator, where he helps drive employee engagement and enhance our unique culture. His everyday efforts are rooted in his desire to uphold Atmos Energy as an employer of choice, and he strives to achieve our vision of being the safest provider of natural gas services.

Beyond the workplace, Donovan is deeply engaged in his community. He coaches youth sports through the Shallowater Youth Sports Association, serves on the board of directors for the Plainview Chamber of Commerce, and remains active in organizational committees at Atmos Energy, including the Enterprise Ops Committee.

In every aspect of his work, Donovan exemplifies professionalism, excellence, and a commitment to continuous improvement, making him not only an invaluable asset to Atmos Energy, but also a deserving candidate for this recognition. His inclusion on the West Texas Division succession list for future leadership roles is a testament to his potential and the high regard in which he is held. As Operations Vice President Mike Culp says, "We think a lot of Donovan. He is just a high-quality employee with a great future and is very well respected."



## Entry: Sam Trowbridge

Your Company: SGC Surveying

Who would you like to nominate? Sam Trowbridge

*Please describe how this person is driving excellence in the natural gas industry.*

Guided by her vision to transform the Natural Gas industry with GIS-powered approaches to data quality and operational efficiency, Samantha Trowbridge has been dedicated to [improving her client's effectiveness by] driving efficiency and improving transparency through GIS applications. Samantha, with her team of GIS professionals, has advanced end-client use of project status and material asset tracking verification (MATS) and presented a conference session on these to industry leaders at the 2025 SGA Spring Gas Conference, upon request of the organization's leadership. Samantha and her team have led the way establishing automations to provide clients with visual interactive project dashboards, map viewers with tracking capabilities that allow clients transparent QAQC verifications. Preliminary Surveys, As-builts and Material Asset Tracking are only some of the many workflows that Samantha and her team support, they also provide, CAD and GIS collaborations, with multi verification automative reporting. Safety is such a large component of our everyday life, Samantha and her team have customized automations that provide real time security for our field workers and clients. Samantha and her team are always ready to brainstorm new ways to solve and update workflows for more transparent and efficient planning. Samantha's dedication to volunteerism reflects her deeper commitment to elevating standards, mentoring the next generation, and driving meaningful change within the Natural Gas Industry. Samantha's a member of the SGA, Young Pipeline Professionals (YPP) USA, National Women in Construction (NAWIC), Women's Pipelines Network, and ESRI Young Professionals. Samantha also serves on the Events committee and Government Affairs Committee within the Carolina Natural Gas Coalition and serves on the SGA Woman in Leadership committee. Samantha has driven a stewardship initiative to train and encourage employees to become ambassadors for the company, industry and for themselves. She has established effective relationship-based marketing campaigns to encourage people from within the company to become walking ambassadors for the Natural Gas Industry. Teaching people how to properly utilize social media, marketing technics, to maximize client engagement, industry advocacy and personal branding. This initiative allows us to inform, assist and encourage everyone to become better new leaders and advocates. Samantha's outreach is inspiring by becoming a vocal advocate, speaking with students of different ages. She is a frequently requested guest speaker at multiple universities where she shines a light about Natural Gas and mentor's students to become involved. Samantha has worked with schools of multiple states to present and provide fun, interactive educational packets for schools to educate and inspire the next generation. The importance of educating the next generation is important to Samantha as she is a proud mother of two. How do I think Samantha is driving excellence within the Natural Gas Industry? Samantha supports her team; she is a problem solver, leads her team by example and clients with innovative automations. She believes in providing people with the tools they need to become better advocates for the

company, themselves and the industry. Samantha has taken on the responsibility to inform, educate and mentor students of different ages.

