

KAIST Alumni Association

Recipient: Deans, Department Chairs, and Program Directors of KAIST

Subject: Call for Nominations - 2025 KAIST Proud Alumni Awards

1. Purpose of the Award

KAIST has dedicated the past five decades to nurturing key talents who have led the advancement of national industries and innovations for the future of society, based on its founding philosophy of creative challenge, contribution to humanity through science and technology, and realization of public value.

Established in 1992, the KAIST Proud Alumni Award honors distinguished alumni who have made remarkable contributions to Korea and the world in their respective fields. It aims to promote exemplary cases that embody the KAIST spirit, inspire pride among fellow alumni, and serve as a role model for society.

2. 2025 Award Nomination Call

The KAIST Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for the 2025 KAIST Proud Alumni Awards to spotlight the challenges and achievements of KAIST graduates who are driving societal change and to celebrate their impact as proud members of the KAIST community.

[Award Categories]

Innovative Entrepreneurship	Alumni who have created new industries or influenced startup ecosystems at home and abroad through original ideas (e.g., startup founders, unicorn founders, tech-based entrepreneurs)
Industrial Contribution	Alumni who have consistently delivered results in private companies or the technology industry, contributing to national competitiveness (e.g., CEOs, CTOs in fields such as semiconductors, electronics, energy, biotech)
Academic Research	Alumni leading core future technologies such as AI, robotics, space, and carbon neutrality (e.g., professors, heads of research institutes, developers of breakthrough technologies)
Public Sector Innovation	Alumni who have advanced national development through public policy, defense, or science and technology administration (e.g., heads of public agencies, government research institutes, officials at the Ministry of Science and ICT)
Social Contribution	Alumni who have made a positive impact in areas such as education, welfare, ESG, climate, and community service (e.g., social entrepreneurs, educators, donors, public interest advocates)
Young Alumni	Outstanding alumni under the age of 40 (born on or after December 31, 1985)

3. How to Nominate

Please complete the attached nomination form and submit it via email to the KAIST Alumni Association Office.

[Attached: Nomination Form in .doc format

- Submission Email: alumni@kaist.ac.kr

- Deadline: July 21 (Mon)

4. Selection Process

Stage	Timeline	Key Details
Nomination & Announcement	May-June	- Announcement via KAIST Alumni Association website and email - Distribution of nomination form and online submission
Document Review	July	- Review of submitted documents - Eligibility and format check
Committee Evaluation	July-October	- Candidate evaluation based on formal criteria
Final Selection & Notification	November	- Final approval by Alumni Association President - Notification and confirmation from awardees
Public Record Collection	December	- Collection of awardee profiles, photos, and achievement statements
Press Release	January	- Press release issued in coordination with the KAIST Public Relations Office
Award Ceremony	January	- Official award presentation at the KAIST New Year's Alumni Gathering

5. Award Ceremony

The KAIST Proud Alumni Awards will be presented during the 2026 New Year Alumni Gathering, scheduled for January 16, 2026, at 5 PM at EL Tower.

May 21, 2025

President, KAIST Alumni Association

Yoon Tae Lee

Contact: Office of the Secretary General

Issued by: KAIST Alumni Association (May 21, 2025)

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[Reference] Past Recipients of the KAIST Proud Alumni Award

Year	Name	Affiliation & Title	Academic Background	Contribution
2024	Lee Eehwan	President, University of Science and Technology (UST)	M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Class of '80	Contributed to national science and technology policy, R&D system advancement, and nurturing of scientific talent.
	Jeong Han	CEO, i3system Inc.	Ph.D. in Electrical & Electronic Engineering, '91	Pioneered Korea's infrared detector field and contributed to military detector development and exports.
	Kim Dongmyung	CEO, LG Energy Solution	Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering, '94	Contributed to the development and global competitiveness of the battery industry.
	Myung Hyun	Professor, KAIST	Ph.D. in Electrical & Electronic Engineering, '94	Developed "DreamWalk" for autonomous robot walking, won international competitions, and led innovations in 3D localization and SLAM technologies.
2023	Kwon Hyukwoong	CEO, Hanwha Ocean	M.S. '83, Ph.D. '88 in Biochemical Engineering	Contributed to the advancement and global competitiveness of the shipbuilding industry.
	Kim Youngjae	CEO, Daeduck Electronics	M.S. in Chemistry, '81	Contributed to the advancement and innovation of the semiconductor industry.
	Kim Jangseong	President, Korea Research Institute of Bioscience & Biotechnology	M.S. '89, Ph.D. '02 in Biological Sciences	Led research in life sciences and advanced Korea's bio industry.
	Lee Taeuk	Professor Emeritus, KAIST	M.S. in Industrial & Systems Engineering, '82	Contributed to education and research in industrial and systems engineering.
2022	Choi Joosun	CEO, Samsung Display	M.S. '87, Ph.D. '91 in Electrical & Electronic Engineering	Contributed to the development and innovation of the display industry.
	Cho Jeonggu	CEO, Green Power	M.S. '86, Ph.D. '88 in Electrical & Electronic Engineering	Contributed to the advancement and localization of power electronics technology.
	Park Jongseung	President, Agency for Defense Development	M.S. '86, Ph.D. '88 in Mechanical Engineering	Contributed to the development of national defense science and technology.
	Kyunghyun Cho	Professor, New York University (NYU)	B.S. in Computer Science, '02	Contributed to research and education in AI and machine learning.
	Omran Sharaf	UAE Space Agency	M.S. in Aerospace Engineering	Played a key role in the success of the UAE space program.
	Amer Al Sayegh	UAE Space Agency	M.S. in Aerospace Engineering	Played a key role in the success of the UAE space program.
	Mohammed Al Harmi	UAE Space Agency	M.S. in Aerospace Engineering	Played a key role in the success of the UAE space program.
2021	Jang Seokbok	Distinguished Professor, KAIST	M.S. in Chemistry, '85	Recognized globally for groundbreaking work in C-H bond catalytic reactions; selected as one of the world's most influential researchers for seven consecutive years.
	Ahn Hyunsil	Director, Hankyung AI Economy Research Institute	M.S. '85, Ph.D. '86 in Business Administration	Contributed to creating a new role for media in industrial promotion and policy advocacy during the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
	Sung Hwanho	CEO, P.S. Tech	M.S. '88, Ph.D. '90 in Electrical & Electronic Engineering, MBA '06	Developed domestic power supply units with capabilities applicable to new industries.

	Park Hakkyu	President, Samsung Electronics	M.S. in Business Administration, '86	Contributed to global expansion in the semiconductor industry and laid the foundation for professional workforce development.
2020	Kim Dongwon	President, Chonbuk National University	M.S. in Industrial & Systems Engineering, '82	Contributed to regional industrial advancement and professional workforce development; strengthened university and regional competitiveness.
	Yoo Taekyung	CEO, Lumens	M.S. '83, Ph.D. '85 in Electrical & Electronic Engineering	Led innovations in LED technologies, contributing to national competitiveness and advancement in science and technology.
	Lee Nakgyu	President, Korea Institute of Industrial Technology	M.S. '85, Ph.D. '87 in Mechanical Engineering	Led the development of key manufacturing technologies and on-site technical support, strengthening Korea's manufacturing competitiveness.
	Koo Hyunmo	CEO, KT Corporation	M.S. '85, Ph.D. '93 in Management Science	Led global 5G commercialization, strengthened AI competitiveness, and advanced domestic cloud industry innovation.
2019	Kim Myungjoon	President, ETRI	M.S. in Computer Science, '78	Provided leadership in software and IT planning, contributing to Korea's national IT competitiveness.
	Shin Dongryul	President, Sungkyunkwan University	M.S. in Electrical & Electronic Engineering, '80	Led development of creative convergence education policies and programs.
	Lee Dongmyun	President, KT Corporation	M.S. '85, Ph.D. '87 in Electrical & Electronic Engineering	Contributed to broadband infrastructure projects and next-generation technology development.
	Kim Changhan	CEO, PUBG Corporation	B.S. '92, M.S. '97, Ph.D. '98 in Computer Science	Elevated Korea's gaming and content industry through the success of PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG).
2018	Suh Gilsoo	President, Yeungnam University	M.S. '75, Ph.D. '78 in Chemistry	Contributed to educational innovation and university administration.
	Kim Kwangsoo	Professor, Harvard Medical School	M.S. '77, Ph.D. '79 in Biological Sciences	Led research on treatments for Parkinson's disease.
	Moon Younghwan	CEO, COATEC Co., Ltd.	M.S. '82, Ph.D. '87 in Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering	Strengthened industrial competitiveness through localization of manufacturing technology.
	Jun Younghyun	CEO, Samsung SDI	M.S. '84, Ph.D. '86 in Electrical & Electronic Engineering	Helped Samsung achieve global leadership in the semiconductor industry.
2017	Kim Byungyoon	Director, KAIST Startup Institute	M.S. in Physics, '77	Contributed to optical fiber research and startup ecosystem development.
	Kim Myunghwan	President, LG Chem	M.S. in Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, '80	Led development of lithium-ion batteries and commercialization for electric vehicles.
	Kim Jungkwan	Executive Vice Chairman, Korea International Trade Association	M.S. in Management Engineering, '85	Contributed to industrial policy and trade promotion.
	Lee Yoon-tae	President & CEO, Samsung Electro-Mechanics	M.S. '83, Ph.D. '89 in Electrical & Electronic Engineering	Advanced semiconductor and display technologies; contributed to the parts industry.
	Jang Kyungho	CEO, INNOX Advanced Materials	M.S. in Chemistry, '87; Ph.D. in Materials Science, '93	Localized materials for flexible circuit boards.

	Jeong Jinbae	CEO, ENF Technology	Ph.D. in Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, '96	Developed high-performance chemicals for semiconductors and displays.
2016	Kim Chulhwan	CEO, Orange Power Co., Ltd.	B.S. '87, M.S. '91, Ph.D. '93 in Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering	Founded a company to solve heat issues in secondary batteries; contributed to industry.
	Kim Hoosik	CEO, Vieworks Co., Ltd.	M.S. in Physics, '95	Commercialized digital X-ray technology.
	Park Hanoh	CEO, BIONEER Corporation	M.S. '84, Ph.D. '87 in Chemistry	Founded Korea's first bio-venture company; developed gene research reagents and diagnostic kits.
	Baek Wonpil	Deputy Director, Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute	M.S. '82, Ph.D. '87 in Nuclear Engineering	Developed global safety validation facility "ATLAS" and contributed to nuclear exports to UAE.
	Jung Chilhee	President, Samsung Advanced Institute of Technology	M.S. in Physics, '79	Developed eco-friendly materials for quantum-dot TVs; advanced memory and system semiconductor technology.
	Chung Hyunho	CEO, Medytox Inc.	M.S. '86, Ph.D. '88 in Life Sciences	Achieved Korea's first commercialization of botulinum toxin; fourth globally.
2015	Kwon Soonki	President, Gyeongsang National University	Chemistry (M.S. '82, Ph.D. '83)	Enhanced university competitiveness through external engagement
	Lee Gwansoon	CEO, Hanmi Pharmaceutical	Chemistry (M.S. '82, Ph.D. '85)	Achieved technology export of new drug worth 8 trillion KRW
	Lee Youngsoo	President, Korea Institute of Industrial Technology	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '76)	Research in practical robotics to support SMEs
	Lee Jaekyu	Professor, KAIST Business School	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '73)	Research on climate change and raising global academic standing as President of AIS
	Ji Daeyoon	CEO, FutureChem	Chemistry (M.S. '77)	Developed radiopharmaceuticals for early diagnosis of Parkinson's and dementia
2014	Park Sungwook	CEO, SK hynix	Materials Science (M.S. '82, Ph.D. '88)	Developed memory semiconductor technology and enhanced industry competitiveness
	Shin Seungho	President, Kangwon National University	Physics (M.S. '79, Ph.D. '87)	Research in optical information processing and training talent
	Lee Kyooho	President, Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology	Chemistry (M.S. '75)	Pioneer in membrane separation technology
	Choi Moonki	Professor, KAIST Department of Technology Management	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '76)	Contributed to broadband network research and ICT industry development
2013	Roh Seokgyun	President, Yeungnam University	Chemistry (M.S. '77)	Contributed to human resources development and social advancement in science and technology
	Lee Kyungguk	CEO, TVLogic Co., Ltd.	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '85)	Pioneer in HD broadcasting technology and active alumni engagement
	Lee Kwanghyung	Professor, KAIST Department of Bio and Brain Engineering	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '78)	Pioneered convergence education and contributed to venture startups

	Woo Namseong	President, Samsung Electronics	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '75)	Contributed to mobile semiconductor technology and industrial growth
2012	Lee Jaesung	CEO, Hyundai Heavy Industries	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '72)	Led Hyundai Heavy Industries to become world's top shipbuilding company
	Kang Daeim	President, KRISS	Mechanical Engineering (Ph.D. '85)	Global leader in measurement standards
	Kim Kinam	President, Samsung Display	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '81)	Contributed to semiconductor technology development and industrial competitiveness
	Park Sunsun	CEO, Dawonsys	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '84, Ph.D. '86)	Advanced power and electronic technologies
	Park Sanghoon	Vice President, SK hynix	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (M.S. '77, Ph.D. '79)	Contributed to national growth through R&D and technology for new businesses
2011	Kim Daehoon	CEO, LG CNS	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '79)	Led IT innovation, contributed to industry and public welfare
	Na Sungkyun	CEO, Neowiz	Management Engineering (M.S. '94)	Led IT ventures and contributed to technological advancement
	Baek Mangi	Advisor, Kim & Chang	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '76)	Bridged engineering and administration to expand career pathways
	Lee Yonghee	Professor, KAIST Department of Physics	Physics (M.S. '77)	Pioneer in photonic crystal research and contributed to KAIST development
	Yang Sein	Director, OCI Research Institute	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (M.S. '78)	Localized polysilicon technology and contributed to industry
2010	Kwon Youngsoo	President, LG Display	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '79)	Led the display industry
	Park Younghoon	President, KRIBB	Biological Sciences (M.S. '74)	Produced bioengineering achievements and contributed to national economy
	Shin Sungchul	Distinguished Professor, KAIST Department of Physics	Physics (M.S. '75)	Achieved in magnetic materials research and served as President of the Korean Physical Society
	Lim Sugyeong	Director, National Tax Service	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '85, Ph.D. '89)	Reformed tax administration systems and developed IT infrastructure
	Lee Hyungho	Director, ETRI	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '77, Ph.D. '79)	Registered IT patents and contributed to tech advancement
2009	Ko Jeongsik	Commissioner, Korean Intellectual Property Office	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (M.S. '77)	Enhanced national economy by strengthening IP
	Kwon Ohyun	President, Semiconductor Business, Samsung Electronics	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '75)	Led industrial growth through semiconductor management
	Kim Doyeon	President, University of Ulsan	Materials Science (M.S. '74)	Led university development and contributed to education
	Yang Myungseung	President, Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute	Materials Science (M.S. '73)	Led nuclear export and elevated national prestige
	Choi Byungkyu	Professor, KAIST Department of Industrial Engineering	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '73)	Globally recognized for achievements in industrial engineering
2008	Koo Jasub	CEO, Korea SMT	AIM 13th Cohort	Recognized for corporate performance and leadership in the alumni association

	Moon Songcheon	Professor, KAIST Business School	Computer Science (M.S. '75)	Social contribution through acts of kindness and community service
	Jang Manchae	President, Suncheon National University	Chemistry (M.S. '80, Ph.D. '82)	Contributed to innovation and educational development of regional universities
2007	Kim Jungju	CEO, NEXON Co., Ltd.	Computer Science (M.S. '91)	Pioneer in the game industry and global market expansion
	Kim Jaehyun	President, Kongju National University	Chemistry (M.S. '79, Ph.D. '84)	Devoted to development of Kongju University and regional innovation
	Na Kyunghwan	President, Korea Institute of Industrial Technology	Mechanical Engineering (M.S. '80, Ph.D. '85)	Led research in mechanical materials and administrative technology; contributed to industrial technology development
	Byun Jaejin	Vice Minister, Ministry of Health and Welfare / Special Award	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '77)	Contributed to the establishment and promotion of national health and welfare policy
	Yoo Ryong	Professor, Department of Chemistry, KAIST	Chemistry (M.S. '77)	Pioneer in nanoporous material research
	Hwang Kyunghyun	President, Korea Institute of Machinery and Materials	Mechanical Engineering (M.S. '76)	Led research in nano-precision machining and contributed to technology commercialization
2006	Kim Jingon	Professor, POSTECH	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (M.S. '80)	Noted for achievements in nanopolymer research
	Kim Shinbae	CEO, SK Telecom	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '78)	Led mobile communication industry and creative management
	Lee Sangki	President, KRIBB	Biological Sciences (M.S. '75, Ph.D. '77)	Commercialized genetic engineering technology and contributed to policy development
	Yi Soyeon	Ph.D. Candidate, KAIST / Special Award	Mechanical Engineering (B.S. '97, M.S. '01) / Bio (Ph.D. '02)	Recognized as Korea's first astronaut candidate
	Jang Byungkyu	CEO, 1noon (FirstSnow)	Computer Science (B.S. '91, M.S. '95)	Founded search engine startup and contributed to IT industry development
	Jang Hyunseop	KINS / Special Award	Nuclear Engineering (M.S. '89, Ph.D. '91)	
2005	Son Jeongsook	CEO, Design Storm	Mathematical Sciences (M.S. '89)	
	Lee Gongju	Ewha Womans University	Biological Sciences (M.S. '77)	
	Lee Namsik	President, Jeonju University	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '79, Ph.D. '81)	Led academic and university administration; contributed to regional innovation
	Lee Moonyong	Vice President, Samsung Electronics	Materials Science (M.S. '75)	
	Yoo Jinnyung	President, LG Chemical Research Institute	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (M.S. '79)	
2004	Kim Ilmin	Professor, Queen's University	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '96, Ph.D. '98)	Conducted research on 4th generation communication technology
	Park Hwayoung	President, Korea Institute of Machinery and Materials	Mechanical Engineering (M.S. '82)	Enhanced national competitiveness through development of new technologies
	Song Moonseop	CEO, Pantech & Curitel	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '74)	Led corporate growth through creative management

	Lee Sangyeol	Professor, Gyeongsang National University	Biological Sciences (Ph.D. '82)	Noted for achievements in biochemistry research
	Yoon Songyi	CEO, WiderThan.com	Electrical Engineering (B.S. '93)	Demonstrated outstanding management skills as youngest executive director
2003	Lee Byeongryeong	Team Leader, Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute	Nuclear Engineering (M.S. '84, Ph.D. '92)	Contributed to community and administration
	Lee Hyunwoo	Executive, Satrec Initiative	Electrical Engineering (B.S. '87)	Contributed to satellite research and education
	Lee Haejin	CEO, NHN Corp.	Computer Science (M.S. '90)	Contributed to the internet industry and growth of NHN
	Cha Gicheol	CEO, Biospace	Mechanical Engineering (M.S. '80)	Contributed to health industry through development of medical devices
	Ha Changsik	Professor, Pusan National University	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (M.S. '78, Ph.D. '80)	Achievements in polymer engineering research
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	Kim Jaehyun	President, Kongju National University	Chemistry (M.S. '79, Ph.D. '84)	Devoted to development of Kongju University and regional innovation
	Na Kyunghwan	President, Korea Institute of Industrial Technology	Mechanical Engineering (M.S. '80, Ph.D. '85)	Led research in mechanical materials and administrative technology; contributed to industrial technology development
	Byun Jaejin	Vice Minister, Ministry of Health and Welfare / Special Award	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '77)	Contributed to the establishment and promotion of national health and welfare policy
	Yoo Ryong	Professor, Department of Chemistry, KAIST	Chemistry (M.S. '77)	Pioneer in nanoporous material research
	Hwang Kyunghyun	President, Korea Institute of Machinery and Materials	Mechanical Engineering (M.S. '76)	Led research in nano-precision machining and contributed to technology commercialization
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	Lee Haejin	CEO, NHN Corp.	Computer Science (M.S. '90)	Contributed to the internet industry and growth of NHN
	Cha Gicheol	CEO, Biospace	Mechanical Engineering (M.S. '80)	Contributed to health industry through development of medical devices
	Ha Changsik	Professor, Pusan National University	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (M.S. '78, Ph.D. '80)	Achievements in polymer engineering research
2002	Kim Daeuk	Chief of Staff, Republic of Korea Air Force	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '73)	Trained elite air force and contributed to national security
	Kim Youngdal	CEO, IDIS Co., Ltd.	Computer Science (B.S. '87, M.S. '91, Ph.D. '93)	
	Lee Hoil	Chairman, Korea Institute of Industrial Technology Evaluation and Planning	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '73)	
	Yoo Youngwook	CEO, SEODO Logic	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '73)	
	Ha Jeongryul	CEO, Corecess Inc.	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '86)	
2001	Kim Dohyun	CEO, MODIA Inc.	Electrical Engineering (B.S. '88)	Contributed to IT startups as a young venture entrepreneur
	Lee Sangcheon	President, Yeungnam University	Mechanical Engineering (M.S. '74)	Contributions to the academic field

	Jeong Gwangchun	CEO, InkTec Co., Ltd.	Chemistry (M.S. '76, Ph.D. '81)	Contributed to advancement of industrial technologies
	Choi Dongkyu	Commissioner, Small and Medium Business Administration	Management Engineering (Ph.D. '82)	Contributed to SME policy and development
2000	Park Yangbae	Director, Agency for Defense Development	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '73)	Advanced defense technologies and promoted self-reliance in the defense industry
1999	Kim Hosik	Director-General, Ministry of Finance and Economy	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '74)	
1998	Lim Hyeongkyu	CEO, System LSI Division, Samsung Electronics	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '76)	
1997	Lee Cheolsu	President, Korea Computer Center	Computer Science (M.S. '75, Ph.D. '77)	
1996	Lee Suoh	President, Changwon National University	Biological Sciences (M.S. '75, Ph.D. '78)	Dedicated efforts to education and research significantly improved the quality of higher education
1995	Lee Minhwa	CEO, Medison Co., Ltd.	Electrical Engineering (M.S. '76, Ph.D. '82)	
1994	Oh Gillok	President, ETRI	Industrial Engineering (M.S. '73)	Led R&D and commercialization in ICT; strengthened national competitiveness in electronic communications
1993	Jo Gwangje	Director, Volvo Construction Research Center	Mechanical Engineering (M.S. '74)	
1992	Kim Yonghyun	CEO, Qnix Co., Ltd.	Computer Science (M.S. '76)	Founded Qnix Co., Ltd. and developed various computer technologies, contributing to the advancement of the domestic computer industry.
	Sim Inbo	CEO, Qnix Co., Ltd.	Computer Science (M.S. '80)	
	Lee Beomcheon	CEO, Qnix Co., Ltd.	Computer Science (M.S. '73, Ph.D. '75)	
	Jeon Yongho	CEO, Qnix Co., Ltd.	Computer Science (M.S. '79)	