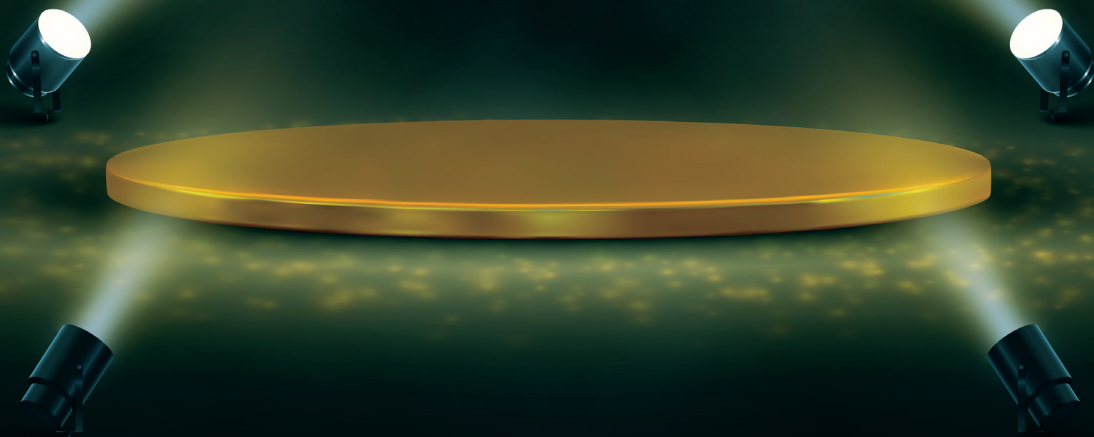




ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

In addition to the Arthur W. Hooper Achievement Award, NAED recognizes the following who have made outstanding contributions to both the channel and the Association.

by Carol Katarsky



**HONORARY LIFE
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

ASH ABHYANKAR,
M.SC. P. ENG.,
Servant Leader
Conexiom



Over his 58-year career, Ash Abhyankar spent half of it at IBM and held several senior leadership roles at AT&T, Fujitsu, and other smaller organizations after retiring from 26 years at IBM. During the past 20 years of his responsibilities at Conexiom, Abhyankar has applied his expertise to sales, marketing, business development, finance, HR, and cultivating alliances across the industry. During his past 10-year association with NAED, his Conexiom team has supported more than 60 NAED members in their order-to-cash and procure-to-pay digital transformation initiatives.

“I feel honored, humbled, and lucky to be chosen to represent the Conexiom team and 40-plus allied partners/service providers to NAED members in recognition of the valuable contributions the three groups are making to the growth of the North American elec-

trical industry,” said Abhyankar.

He cites the continuing evolution of businesses, specifically within the electrical industry, as one of the things he has most enjoyed during his journey. Abhyankar began his career as an electrical design engineer in 1965. Later he worked on projects such as the development of a real-time Advanced Control System at NASA’s Manned Spacecraft Center, using two Apollo project software modules for automation of continuous processes at Exxon, Rio Tinto, Weyerhaeuser, etc. That system was implemented in more than

watching and being part of the increase in diversity—whether that’s gender, ethnicity, age, geography—to support the innovations and global reach of NAED members’ products and services,” he said.

He credits many great mentors for his desire and ability to help others grow in their careers.

“My passion has been to look for ways to help people expand their comfort zone, reach their growth potential, showcase their talent, become an advocate for Conexiom’s valued customers, and receive recognition for their successes,” he

**IN HIS
WORDS**

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—Ash Abhyankar, Conexiom

100 global operations, interfacing with Honeywell, Foxboro/Schneider Electric, ABB, and Eaton instrumentations. Over the past 20 years, he has supported organizations as they pursued lean business process improvements, digital transformation initiatives, the use of IoT technology, increased corporate social responsibility efforts, and EV infrastructure planning.

The evolution he’s witnessed goes beyond technology to include a renewed focus on relationships, interconnecting businesses, talent acquisition, and development and retention of new generations shaping the industry. “I’ve enjoyed

said. He also recognizes how he has benefited from those experiences, including getting opportunities to learn that have helped him feel younger, engaged, and energized.

Abhyankar says he’s not “tired” and therefore not ready to be completely “retired” yet. “There is so much left to learn from and contribute to the growth of the community I am part of. I will continue to learn from mentoring future leaders toward their contributions, success, and personal growth, and I will continue to be a big cheerleader for Conexiom customers, NAED members, and associates as I continue my life’s journey,” he said. ■