



Kansas State Council of SHRM, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KAISHA WELLS Named 2026 Kansas SHRM Rising Star Award Winner

Manhattan, KS —Kaisha Wells SHRM-CP, HR Manager with Torgeson Electric and a member of SHRM Topeka has been recognized as the **2026 Rising Star Award** recipient by the Kansas State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management, Inc. (KS SHRM).

Wells is the third-time nominee for the Rising Star Award. Her continued professional growth, leadership, and contributions to both her organization and the HR profession distinguished her as the 2026 recipient.

The Rising Star Award, established in 2019 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Kansas SHRM Annual Conference, honors early-career HR professionals who demonstrate outstanding potential and leadership in the field. The award highlights the importance of mentorship, professional growth, and fostering the next generation of HR leaders.

To qualify, nominees must be active HR professionals with fewer than five years of HR experience and be a member of a local SHRM chapter or National SHRM.

“Kaisha stood out because she has already demonstrated the kind of initiative and impact we hope to see in the next generation of HR leaders,” said Makala Navarro, selection committee chair. “She stepped into a challenging Department of One role, built essential HR systems from the ground up, and created processes that are making a lasting difference for her organization. Just as importantly, she is investing in the profession and her community through her work with SHRM Topeka. Kaisha is not waiting for leadership opportunities — she is creating them.”

Wells was honored during the **37th Annual Kansas SHRM Conference in Manhattan**, where more than 600 HR professionals from across the state gathered.

For more information about the Rising Star Award, visit www.ksshrm.org.

About Kansas State Council of SHRM, Inc.

The Kansas State Council of SHRM, Inc. (KS SHRM) represents more than 3,200 members as the state affiliate of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). Founded in 1948, SHRM is the world’s largest HR association with over 285,000 members worldwide.

KS SHRM is a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization dedicated to supporting HR professionals through education, advocacy, and collaboration. Kansas has 11 SHRM-affiliated chapters, each represented on the State Council.

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