

2026 Professional Development Award Candidate Bio Form

Please submit this form no later than **Monday, October 6, 2025 at 5pm.**

Email *

hatchj1@ferris.edu

Name of Nominee: *

Joe Hatch

Facility Employed at: *

Ferris State University

Year Elected to Membership: *

2011

Are you a Master Professional, Certified Professional, serve as an Association Subject Matter Expert or adjunct PGA faculty member? *

No

Please describe your contribution to the PGA educational programs in the Michigan Section or * nationally in 250 words or less:

As Director of the PGA Golf Management Program at Ferris State University, I am privileged to contribute to PGA educational programs that shape the next generation of golf professionals. Within the Michigan Section, I collaborate with industry leaders to connect students with real-world learning opportunities, ensuring their education extends beyond the classroom. By facilitating seminars, workshops, and guest lectures with PGA Members and industry experts, I provide students with access to innovative practices in player development, operations, and leadership.

Nationally, I serve the PGA by advancing a curriculum that bridges higher education and the Association's evolving training model. I emphasize experiential learning, equipping students with skills that align directly with the PGA's core competencies. Through initiatives such as structured work experience programming, leadership development, and specialized seminars, including coaching, technology integration, and career readiness, I prepare students to excel in PGA education and beyond.

Additionally, I advocate for continuous professional development among PGA Members by hosting educational sessions that support lifelong learning. By fostering collaboration between the Michigan Section and Ferris State, I ensure the program serves as a resource for PGA Members while positioning our graduates to contribute meaningfully at the local, regional, and national levels.

My commitment is to uphold Ferris State's legacy as the birthplace of PGA Golf Management education while ensuring our contributions remain relevant, innovative, and impactful for the Association and its Members.

.....

Please describe your contribution toward development of articles or materials related to and benefiting education in 250 words or less: *

Throughout my career as Director of the PGA Golf Management Program at Ferris State University, I have consistently contributed to the development of educational materials that bridge classroom learning with industry practice. My work emphasizes creating resources that not only support student success but also advance the broader mission of golf education.

I have developed curriculum guides, workshop materials, and advising tools that help students prepare for their PGA portfolio requirements and professional benchmarks. These materials are designed to simplify complex industry standards into accessible, actionable steps, ensuring students can progress confidently through their education and into their careers.

In addition, I have contributed written content for newsletters, alumni communications, and program publications that highlight professional development, career readiness, and emerging trends in the golf industry. These pieces serve as both educational tools and engagement resources, fostering a stronger connection between students, alumni, and the profession.

Most recently, I worked to showcase Ferris State University's long-standing impact on golf education through the program's 50th Anniversary Celebration. This milestone event not only created valuable educational and networking opportunities for students and alumni but also resulted in extensive coverage in PGA Magazine. That national feature highlighted our university's leadership in golf education, the achievements of our alumni, and the innovative direction of the program.

Together, these contributions strengthen the visibility of Ferris State University while providing resources that directly benefit students and the golf industry.

Please describe your contribution to build the image of both PGA Professionals and the Association? *

As Director of the PGA Golf Management Program at Ferris State University, my primary contribution to building the image of PGA Professionals and the Association is through the education and development of our students—the future leaders of the golf industry. I believe that every interaction, lesson, and experience in our program is an opportunity to instill the values and professionalism that define the PGA of America. I design curriculum, workshops, and experiential learning opportunities that emphasize leadership, communication, and service to others. These qualities go beyond technical golf skills and help students understand that being a PGA Professional means serving as a role model, mentor, and ambassador for the game. By holding students to high standards of accountability and professionalism, I prepare them to uphold the values of the Association from the very beginning of their careers.

Equally important, I showcase student accomplishments in publications, newsletters, and events, helping them gain visibility as emerging professionals while highlighting the impact of the PGA. Our 50th Anniversary Celebration served as a prime example, where students played a central role in hosting alumni, PGA leaders, and industry partners. Their efforts not only enriched their own learning but also demonstrated to a national audience—through extensive coverage in PGA Magazine—the quality and character of PGA Professionals trained at Ferris State.

By developing students who embody integrity, leadership, and service, I help strengthen the image of both PGA Professionals and the Association for years to come.

Please describe how you inspire fellow PGA Professionals and promote the game of golf in 250 words or less. *

As Director of the PGA Golf Management Program at Ferris State University, I believe inspiring fellow PGA Professionals and promoting the game of golf begins with leading by example. Within our program, I emphasize the importance of fulfilling playing requirements not as a box to check, but as an opportunity to grow as both a player and a professional. By maintaining my own commitment to playing and competing in tournaments, I model for students and colleagues that continuous improvement and engagement in the game are lifelong responsibilities of a PGA Professional.

Beyond the university, I actively contribute to initiatives that promote the game to diverse audiences. For the past two years, I have been involved in the PGA HOPE program, helping to introduce veterans to the game as a pathway to healing, connection, and community. This experience has reinforced for me—and for the students who witness it—the powerful role golf can play in improving lives.

Additionally, I recently partnered with First Tee to reintroduce the Golf in Schools program to Big Rapids Middle School. By bringing golf directly to students in a school setting, we expand access and create early positive experiences with the game. These efforts not only promote the growth of golf, but also highlight the PGA's leadership in making the game more inclusive and accessible.

Through these commitments, I strive to inspire others in the profession while ensuring golf continues to thrive for future generations.

Please list any other PGA Section or National Awards you've received and the year(s) you received them (50 word limit): *

2024 Professional Development Award

This form was created inside of PGA HQ and sections - all Google users.

Google Forms