**2021 CHERISE M. GONZALEZ YAC OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Cherise M. Gonzalez was an active member of the insurance industry for many years working both on the agent side and on the company side of the business. She first joined the Young Agents Council in 2004 as a member-at-large and then moved up to an officer’s position, serving as Chairman in 2012-2013. She served on Big I NJ’s membership committee and as a board member of the Bergen/Hudson Counties local association.

During her time as the YAC Chairman, Cherise was diligent in helping young agents grow by identifying mentors to assist them and provide them with the support they needed to perpetuate the independent agency system. She spearheaded the ‘YAC Gives Back’ program in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy to aid pets affected by the storm, an effort that raised money and supplies for overworked shelters.

She earned her Accredited Customer Service Representative designation in 2007, was named the recipient of the Travelers Personal Lines High Achievement Award in 2014, and was named to Insurance Business America’s ‘Young Guns’ in 2014.

In light of all the accomplishments Cherise made during her insurance career, and her unwavering support of young agents and the independent agency system, this award has been named in her honor. The winning nominee will be voted on by the Award committee and presented at the 2020 NJ Agents Conference.

**Eligibility**

1. Candidates must be associated with an insurance agency that is a member in good standing of Big I New Jersey.
2. Candidates must be under the age of 40 as of December 31, 2021.
3. Candidates must have demonstrated service to the agency, professional trade association and community, in a manner which has brought credit to the insurance profession.

**Nomination Form**

Nominee:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Using a separate piece of paper, please describe, in detail, the activities you have participated in that demonstrate how you meet the eligibility of this award. Please note that activities need not be limited to the year in which the award is given.

Nominations must be returned to Jennifer Kacmarsky, jkacmarsky@biginj.org, by August 15, 2021 for consideration.