



Workforce Development Pinnacle Award

Read Before You Begin

The Workforce Development Pinnacle Award recognizes employers, businesses, and industry groups that demonstrate exceptional commitment to workforce development through partnerships with North Carolina's 58 community colleges.

Who is eligible?

- Employers or businesses with an active partnership with one or more NC community colleges for at least three years
- Partnerships that show measurable results such as training programs, certifications, apprenticeships, or job placements
- Organizations that fit into one of the following categories:
 - Apprenticeship/Internship Champion – Businesses that provide significant apprenticeship or internship opportunities in collaboration with community colleges
 - Innovative Leadership – Businesses that have implemented novel or creative strategies with community colleges
 - Business of the Year (500+ employees) – Large businesses demonstrating substantial workforce development impact
 - Business of the Year (<500 employees) – Small and mid-sized businesses with exceptional workforce development impact

Additional notes:

- Previous winners in the same category are not eligible for nomination.
- Sponsors of the awards may still be nominated, provided there is no conflict of interest.
- If a nominated business is connected to a member of the Awards Committee, that committee member will not participate in reviewing the nomination.

Examples of Excellence

When preparing your nomination, consider highlighting achievements and initiatives from the past three years. Strong nominations often include:

- Workforce Development Impact – training programs, certifications, apprenticeships, or job placements created through the partnership
- Innovation and Collaboration – unique approaches, technology integration, or joint curriculum development with measurable outcomes
- Sustainability and Growth – evidence of long-term opportunities, ongoing projects, or growth for both the business and the college
- Community Engagement – outreach efforts, student opportunities, and contributions to local or regional economic development

What to expect in the form

You will be asked to:

1. Select the category for your nomination
2. Describe the partnership's workforce development impact
3. Highlight innovation and collaboration
4. Explain sustainability and growth
5. Share community engagement and economic impact
6. (Optional) Provide additional information about the partnership

Please keep responses focused on the past three years, though you may include ongoing projects that began earlier.

Workforce Development Pinnacle Award Submission

The Workforce Development Pinnacle Award recognizes employers, businesses, and industry groups that show exceptional commitment to professional development and the advancement of North Carolina's workforce through partnerships with our 58 community colleges.

Nomination Questions

Please keep responses focused on the past three years. You may also include ongoing projects that began earlier.

1. Category Selection

Which category best fits your nomination?

- Apprenticeship/Internship Champion
- Innovative Leadership
- Business of the Year (500+ employees)
- Business of the Year (<500 employees)

Workforce Development Impact

Describe how the partnership has strengthened workforce development (e.g., training programs, certifications, apprenticeships, or job placements).

Innovation and Growth

Explain any innovative approaches or collaborative efforts with the community college and how they support long-term growth.

Community & Economic Impact

Share how the partnership has benefited students, the community, or regional economic development.

Additional Highlights (Optional)

Is there anything else you'd like to include that demonstrates the excellence of this partnership?