2027 President of the Year Award

This award is presented by the State Board of Community Colleges, recognizing presidential leadership that produces meaningful and sustained results for students, the institution, the community, the North Carolina Community College System, and the broader community college profession. Accomplishments from the past three years should be emphasized, including significant ongoing work when relevant.

Across the four criteria, reviewers will consider how the nominee applied innovation, strategic planning, problem solving, collaboration, adaptability, sound judgment, and integrity. For each criterion, clearly explain:

- The challenge, need, or opportunity.
- The nominee's specific role, decisions, and actions.
- The results achieved, using measurable or clearly observable evidence.
- How the work was sustained, expanded, or positioned for continued impact, when relevant.

Potential examples are provided to help nominators identify relevant accomplishments. They are not required, and nominators do not need to address every example. Stronger responses will connect actions to outcomes rather than simply listing activities, awards, partnerships, or responsibilities.

Letters of Support
Up to three letters of support may be submitted with the nomination but are not required.

Eligibility
- Any current president of an institution within North Carolina Community Colleges at the time of the award is eligible.
- Acting Presidents, Interim Presidents, and previous winners of the award are ineligible.
- Eligible nominations must be approved by the current Chair of the nominee’s college Board of Trustees.
- Nominations received after the published deadline will be considered ineligible.

Presidential Award Nomination Form – Questions for Review

The following questions are included in the award nomination form. Please review them before beginning your submission.

Section 1: Nominee Information

1. President's Name:
2. College:
3. Email:
4. Phone:

Section 2: Nominator Information

5. Name:
6. Email:
7. Phone:
8. Relationship to Nominee:

Section 3: Student Outcomes and Growth

9. Describe how the nominee improved outcomes and opportunities for students across the college's programs and services.

- Required Evidence: Explain student need or opportunity, the nominee's specific leadership actions, and the resulting improvements for students. Include data or other clear evidence of the results.

- Potential Examples: Expanded access; improved retention, completion, transfer, credential attainment, employment, or economic mobility; improved student support; or the removal of barriers.

Maximum: 2,500 characters

Section 4: Community and Workforce Leadership & Impact

10. Describe how the nominee strengthened the college's service and value to its communities and workforce and economic development needs.

- Required Evidence: Explain the community need or opportunity, the nominee's role in addressing it, and the resulting impact. Show how the work strengthened the college's responsiveness or value to the communities it serves.

- Potential Examples: Responses to workforce and economic development needs; stronger relationships with employers, schools, universities, government, and community organizations; increased educational access; community development; or leadership during a significant local challenge or opportunity.

Maximum: 2,500 characters

Section 5: Institutional Strength, Growth, and Innovation

11. Describe how the nominee strengthened the college and prepared it for the future. Required Evidence: Explain the institutional challenge or opportunity, transformation and innovations, the nominee's decisions and actions, and the resulting improvement in capacity, performance, stability, or readiness. Growth should reflect improved capacity and performance, along with increased size if applicable.

- Potential Examples: Stronger organizational culture; transformation success; improved financial health and management; employee development; enrollment stability or growth; program improvement; effective planning; accreditation; appropriate use of technology; facility development; or increased institutional capacity.

Maximum: 2,500 characters

Section 6: State and National Impact and Leadership

12. Describe how the nominee used the presidency to serve North Carolina beyond their own institution and, where applicable, contribute nationally.

- Required Evidence: Explain the broader need or opportunity, the nominee's specific contribution, and the results or influence beyond the nominee's institution. Emphasize substantive contributions and demonstrated impact as well as titles, memberships, visibility, or recognition.

- Potential Examples: Leadership in statewide or national initiatives; statewide or national educational or business partnerships; contributions to public policy; service to the North Carolina Community College System; or practices adopted by other institutions.

Maximum: 2,500 characters

13. Letters of Support: Up to three letters of support may be submitted with the nomination but are not required.

Please send letters via email to sbccawards@nccommunitycolleges.edu.

14. Eligible nominations must be approved by the current Chair of the nominee's college Board of Trustees. Please provide the name, phone number, and email address of the Chair.

Award Information: The winning president receives an $8k cash prize and a trophy, and their respective college foundation receives a $2k cash prize - all compliments of the NC Community Colleges Foundation.