2027 Workforce Development Pinnacle Award

This award is presented by the State Board of Community Colleges, recognizing employers, businesses, and industry groups that demonstrate exceptional commitment to workforce development through partnerships with North Carolina's 58 community colleges.

Across the 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.

Guidance is provided to help nominators identify relevant partnership accomplishments. Stronger responses will connect actions to outcomes rather than simply listing activities, awards, partnerships, or responsibilities.

Eligibility

- Employers or businesses with an active partnership with one or more North Carolina Community Colleges for at least three years.
- Partnerships that show measurable results such as training programs, certifications, apprenticeships, or job placements.
- 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.

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: Category Selection

1. Which award category best fits your award nomination?
Select one of the following:

- Apprenticeship Champion
- Innovative Leadership
- Business of the Year (More than 500 employees)
- Business of the Year (Fewer than 500 employees)

Section 2: Nominee Information

2. Name of College(s) and/or Business(s):
3. Point of Contact at College (Name, Email, Phone):
4. Point of Contact at Business (Name, Email, Phone):

Section 3: Nominator Information

5. Name:
6. Current or Former Title:
7. Current or Former Affiliated Organization:
8. Email:
9. Phone:
10. Relationship to Nominee:
11. Eligible nominations must be approved by the college president and business leader. Please provide the names, phone numbers, and email addresses for each below.

Section 4: Workforce Development Impact

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

Maximum: 2,500 characters

Section 5: Innovation

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

Maximum: 2,500 characters

Section 6: Sustainability

14. Detail how the partnership has supported long-term growth for both the business and the college. Share examples of ongoing or future projects and any measurable outcomes (enrollment, revenue, expansion).

Maximum: 2,500 characters

Section 7: Impact

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

Maximum: 2,500 characters

Section 8: Additional Highlights

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

Maximum: 2,500 characters

Award Information: The winning businesses and colleges receive trophies - compliments of the NC Community Colleges Foundation.