**Governors Awards for Excellence (GAE)**

**2025 Nomination Rules**

[](http://www.excellenceawards.nc.gov/Home.aspx)Nominations must comply with the following rules to be considered:

**2025  
Governor's Awards   
for Excellence**

* All nominations must be submitted using the online nomination form found on the OSHR website at [excellenceawards.nc.gov](http://www.excellenceawards.nc.gov). Information other than what is submitted online will not be considered.
  + Each required field on the form must be completed for the nomination to be considered.
  + Each field with a word count requirement must meet the minimum requirement. Your word count can be tracked by answering the question in a Word document then copying and pasting it into the online application.
* All nominations must be submitted by 5 p.m. **April 15, 2025.**
* Please contact your GAE coordinator listed at the end of this document or Carol Battle (carol.battle@nc.gov) if you have any questions.

**Seven Award Categories**

The Awards Selection Committee reserves the right to change the category of a nomination as appropriate. Categories are:

1. **Customer Service:**Provided exceptional service that left the customer fully satisfied with their experience. Exceeded expectations to meet the needs of the customer. Added value to the customer experience.
2. **Efficiency & Innovation:**Improved the efficiency of state government services. Established new and/or improved methods, practices, plans or designs resulting in innovation, savings and/or efficiencies. This is an excellent category for recognizing employee suggestions that have been implemented and proven successful.
3. **Human Relations:**Made outstanding contributions toward enhancing the quality and morale of the workplace or creating a better public image of state government (such as positive personal interaction with other employees; public awareness; working on relations internally within an agency; or collaboration between different agencies).
4. **Outstanding State Government Service:**Exhibited unselfish devotion to duty far and above the normal requirements and contributed significantly to the advancement of state service to the citizens of North Carolina.
5. **Public Service:**Made outstanding contributions by participating in or implementing community and public service projects (such as volunteering with various non-profit organizations).
6. **Safety and Heroism:**Demonstrated outstanding judgment or courage in an emergency, voluntarily risking their life, or exhibited meritorious action to prevent injury, loss of life or prevented damage to or loss of property.
7. **Spirit of North Carolina:**Exemplified the state motto “To be, rather than to seem.” Mentored others in the pursuit of excellence. Served as an ambassador for the State of North Carolina. This special award is reserved for exceptional circumstances and for accomplishments and achievement of the highest caliber.

**Online Submission Checklist**

* Employee’s name, work phone number, email and address
* Employee’s job title and basic job description
* Name and contact information for employee’s supervisor
* Name and email for the GAE coordinator at the employee’s agency/university
* A written summary of a minimum of 350 words explaining why the employee is being nominated.
  + For group nominations, an overall explanation of 350 words or more and details explaining each employee’s specific contribution are required.
* Nomination category
* Consent from the nominee’s supervisor.
  + The supervisor must be made aware of your intent to nominate the employee before you complete the nomination form.

***Once you have this information ready, you are all set to begin the online nomination*.**

**Number of Submissions Allowed Per Agency/University**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **# of Employees** | **# of Nominations** |
| < 300 employees | **3** |
| 300 – 1,999 | **6** |
| 2,000 - 10,000 | **8** |
| More than 10,000 | **12** |

**2025 Governor’s Awards for Excellence Agency and University Coordinators**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agency/University | Coordinator | Email Address |
| **Administration** | Sandra Bailey | [sandra.bailey@doa.nc.gov](mailto:sandra.bailey@doa.nc.gov?subject=Governor's%20Awards%20for%20Excellence) |
| **Adult Correction** | Tiffany S. Vaughan | [tiffany.vaughan@dac.nc.gov](mailto:tiffany.vaughan@dac.nc.gov) |
| **Agriculture** | Tara Sandford | [tara.sandford@ncagr.gov](mailto:tara.sandford@ncagr.gov?subject=Governor's%20Awards%20for%20Excellence) |
| **Appalachian State** | Tina Chaffin | [chaffincl@appstate.edu](mailto:chaffincl@appstate.edu) |
| **Auditor** | Lauren Eiswirth | [lauren.eiswirth@ncauditor.gov](mailto:lauren.eiswirth@ncauditor.gov) |
| **Commerce** | Deborah Wilkerson | [deborah.wilkerson@nccommerce.com](mailto:deborah.wilkerson@nccommerce.com) |
| **Community Colleges** | Kelli Reale | [realek@nccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:realek@nccommunitycolleges.edu) |
| **Natural and Cultural Resources** | Kim Campbell | [kim.campbell@ncdcr.gov](mailto:kim.campbell@ncdcr.gov) |
| **East Carolina University** | Rob Weatherly | [weatherlyr19@ecu.edu](mailto:weatherlyr19@ecu.edu) |
| **Elizabeth City State University** | Beverly Bowe-Barnett | [bdbowebarnett@ecsu.edu](mailto:bdbowebarnett@ecsu.edu) |
| **Environmental Quality** | Leonard Harper | [leonard.harper@deq.nc.gov](mailto:leonard.harper@deq.nc.gov?subject=Governor's%20Awards%20for%20Excellence) |
| **Fayetteville State** | Francesca O’Keeffe | [fokeeffe@uncfsu.edu](mailto:fokeeffe@uncfsu.edu) |
| **Health and Human Services** | Monika Williams | [monika.williams@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:monika.williams@dhhs.nc.gov) |
| **Information Technology** | Samuel Stephenson | [samuel.stephenson@nc.gov](mailto:samuel.stephenson@nc.gov) |
| **Insurance** | Monica Shank | [monica.shank@ncdoi.gov](mailto:monica.shank@ncdoi.gov) |
| **Justice** | Maggie Rodriguez | [mrodriguez@ncdoi.gov](mailto:mrodriguez@ncdoi.gov) |
| **Labor** | Kyla Virden | [kyla.virden@labor.nc.gov](mailto:kyla.virden@labor.nc.gov) |
| **Military and Veterans Affairs** | DeShun Perry | [deshun.perry@nc.gov](mailto:deshun.perry@nc.gov) |
| **North Carolina A&T** | Veronica Sills | [vlsills@ncat.edu](mailto:vlsills@ncat.edu) |
| **NC Central University** | Connie Boone | [cboone@nccu.edu](mailto:cboone@nccu.edu) |
| **NC Lottery** | Van Denton | [van.denton@lotterync.net](mailto:van.denton@lotterync.net?subject=Governor's%20Awards%20for%20Excellence) |
| **NC State University** | Stephanie Davis | [sskelber@ncsu.edu](mailto:sskelber@ncsu.edu) |
| **Office of Administrative Hearings** | Angeline Hariston | [Angeline.hariston@oah.nc.gov](mailto:Angeline.hariston@oah.nc.gov) |
| **Office of the Governor** | Karen Cheek | [Karen.cheek@nc.gov](mailto:Karen.cheek@nc.gov) |
| **Office of State Budget and Management** | Melissa Martin | [melissa.martin@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:melissa.martin@osbm.nc.gov) |
| **Office of State Controller** | Glenda Ellerbee | [glenda.ellerbee@osc.nc.gov](mailto:glenda.ellerbee@osc.nc.gov) |
| **Office of State Human Resources** | Karen Cheek | [Karen.cheek@nc.gov](mailto:Karen.cheek@nc.gov) |
| **Public Instruction** | Tracy Batts | [tracy.batts@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:tracy.batts@dpi.nc.gov) |
| **Public Safety** | Dana Kahn | [dana.kahn@ncdps.gov](mailto:dana.kahn@ncdps.gov) |
| **Revenue** | Cheryl Benedetto | [cheryl.benedetto@ncdor.gov](mailto:cheryl.benedetto@ncdor.gov) |
| **Secretary of State** | April Tibbs | [atibbs@sosnc.gov](mailto:atibbs@sosnc.gov) |
| **School of Science and Mathematics** | Jaime Kelsky | [jaime.kelsky@ncssm.edu](mailto:jaime.kelsky@ncssm.edu) |
| **State Bureau of Investigation** | Christy Lanham | [clanham@ncsbi.gov](mailto:clanham@ncsbi.gov?subject=Governor's%20Awards%20for%20Excellence) |
| **Transportation** | Christopher Law | [cjlaw@ncdot.gov](mailto:cjlaw@ncdot.gov) |
| **Treasurer** | Toni Welch | [toni.welch@nctreasurer.com](mailto:toni.welch@nctreasurer.com) |
| **UNC – Asheville** | Deborah Shivers | [dshiver1@unca.edu](mailto:dshiver1@unca.edu) |
| **UNC – Chapel Hill** | Jessica Pyjas | [Jessica\_pyjas@unc.edu](mailto:Jessica_pyjas@unc.edu) |
| **UNC – Charlotte** | Linda Diggs | [ldiggs3@uncc.edu](mailto:ldiggs3@uncc.edu) |
| **UNC System Office** | Kathy Bryant | [kwbryant@northcarolina.edu](mailto:kwbryant@northcarolina.edu) |
| **UNC – Greensboro** | Patricia Lynch | [pmlynch2@uncg.edu](mailto:pmlynch2@uncg.edu) |
| **UNC – Pembroke** | Sheila Hardee | [Sheila.hardee@uncp.edu](mailto:Sheila.hardee@uncp.edu) |
| **UNC School of the Arts** | Angela Mahoney | [mahoneya@uncsa.edu](mailto:mahoneya@uncsa.edu) |
| **UNC – Wilmington** | Tessa Lachman | [lachmant@uncw.edu](mailto:lachmant@uncw.edu) |
| **Western Carolina University** | Cory Causby | [causby@email.wcu.edu](mailto:causby@email.wcu.edu) |
| **Wildlife Resources Commission** | Patricia Barnes | [Patricia.barnes@ncwildlife.org](mailto:Patricia.barnes@ncwildlife.org) |
| **Winston Salem State University** | Camilla Norris | norrisca@wssu.edu |