

Governors Awards for Excellence (GAE)

2026 Nomination Rules

Nominations must comply with the following rules to be considered:

- All nominations must be submitted using the online nomination form found on the OSHR website at 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 28, 2026.**
- Please contact your GAE coordinator listed at the end of this document or the OSHR Awards and Recognition Team (GAE@nc.gov) if you have any questions.



2026
Governor's Awards
for Excellence

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 achievements 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

2026 Governor’s Awards for Excellence Agency and University Coordinators

Agency/University	Coordinator	Email Address
Administration	Sandra Bailey Donnell Adams	sandra.bailey@doa.nc.gov donnell.adams@doa.nc.gov
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