



Eligibility Criteria and Nomination Questions

Workforce Development Pinnacle Awards

This award recognizes outstanding employers, businesses, or industry groups that show exceptional commitment to employee professional development and the advancement of North Carolina's workforce through partnerships with the 58 community colleges in the North Carolina Community College System. Eligible partnerships should demonstrate decisive involvement and firm commitment to workforce development programs, contributing to the enhancement of employee skills and job training. These collaborations should result in significant benefits to the community or regional and state economic development.

Examples of Excellence:

Please provide specific examples that demonstrate how the nominee has excelled in the following criteria. Emphasize achievements and initiatives from the past three years, though you may also include ongoing projects that began before this period:

- **Workforce Development Impact:** Describe how the partnership has led to significant advancements in workforce development, including training programs, job placements, and skill-building initiatives.
- **Innovation and Collaboration:** Highlight innovative approaches or collaborative efforts between the business and the community college that have resulted in measurable success.
- **Sustainability and Growth:** Detail how the partnership has contributed to long-term sustainability and growth for both the business and the educational institution.
- **Community Engagement:** Provide examples of how the partnership has engaged with the broader community, benefiting both students and the local economy.

By focusing on these areas, your nomination will effectively showcase the strength and success of the business-college partnership.

Eligibility Parameters for Pinnacle Business Awards

General Eligibility:

- Business Size:
 - Large Business: Businesses with 500 or more employees.
 - Small Business: Businesses with fewer than 500 employees.



- Apprenticeship: Organizations that actively participate in apprenticeship programs in partnership with community colleges.
- Innovative Business: Businesses that demonstrate innovative approaches or practices in partnership with community colleges.

Partnership Requirements:

- Active Engagement: The business must have an active and ongoing partnership with one or more community colleges in North Carolina.
- Documented Impact: The partnership should show documented outcomes in terms of workforce development, training programs, or other measurable impacts.
- Sustained Effort: The partnership should have been in place for a significant period, typically at least the past three years, though longer-term collaborations are encouraged.

Specific Criteria for Categories:

- Apprenticeship: Businesses that provide apprenticeship opportunities and collaborate with community colleges to offer training and job placement for students.
- Business Larger than 500 Employees: Large businesses that have made significant contributions to workforce development through their partnership with community colleges.
- Business Less than 500 Employees: Small to medium-sized businesses that have shown exceptional impact through their collaboration with community colleges.
- Innovative Business: Companies that have implemented novel or creative strategies in their partnership with community colleges, demonstrating outstanding innovation in workforce development.

Additional Considerations:

- Previous Award Winners: Previous winners of the business award in the same category are ineligible for nomination.
- Sponsorship Conflicts: Businesses that serve as sponsors of the awards may still be eligible for nomination, provided there is no conflict of interest.
- If a nominated business is affiliated with any member of the Awards Committee, that member(s) will recuse themselves from the selection process. The Chair of the State Board of Community Colleges will assign replacement board members to the Committee if necessary.

Nomination Questions

What category of Pinnacle Business Award does your nomination fit?

- Apprenticeship / Internship Champion
- Innovative Leadership
- Business of the Year >500
- Business of the Year <500

Workforce Development Impact

- 1. What specific workforce development initiatives have resulted from your partnership with the community college?**
 - Describe the training programs, certifications, or apprenticeships created.
 - How many individuals have been trained or placed in jobs because of this partnership?
- 2. Can you provide examples of how this partnership has addressed specific workforce needs in the community?**
 - How has the partnership helped bridge skill gaps or meet industry demands?

Innovation and Collaboration

- 3. What innovative approaches have you and the community college implemented together?**
 - Describe any unique programs, technology integration, or curriculum development that have been part of this partnership.
 - What challenges were addressed through these innovations?
- 4. How has collaboration between your business and the community college led to measurable success?**
 - Provide examples of joint projects or initiatives that have led to significant outcomes.
 - How have students or employees benefited from these collaborations?

Sustainability and Growth

- 5. How has your partnership with the community college contributed to long-term sustainability for both organizations?**
 - Explain how the partnership has created ongoing opportunities for growth and development.
 - Are there any ongoing or future projects that demonstrate this sustainability?
- 6. Can you describe the growth experienced by your business or the community college as a result of this partnership?**



- Include metrics or examples that show increased enrollment, revenue, or business expansion linked to the partnership.

Community Engagement

- 7. In what ways has your partnership engaged with the local community?**
 - Describe any community outreach programs, events, or partnerships that have been initiated.
- 8. How has the partnership between your business and the community college benefited students and the local economy?**
 - Provide examples of job creation, internships, scholarships, or other opportunities that have been made available to students.
- 9. What impact has your partnership had on the overall economic development of the region?**
 - Share any data or success stories that illustrate this impact.

Additional Questions (Optional)

- 10. Is there anything else you would like to highlight about the partnership that demonstrates its excellence?**
 - Include any other achievements, recognitions, or unique aspects of the partnership that haven't been covered by the previous questions.