



**Excellence in Leadership Scholarship Program
2025-2026 Caldwell County Schools**

Educator Award

Purpose: To recognize two (2) teachers from Caldwell County Schools (K-12) for their community contributions, dedication, and active work in creating a positive learning environment for all students. This can include demonstrating that their efforts have guided other staff members to nurture positive learning environments.

Eligibility: Full-time teachers across Caldwell County.

Explanation of Award: This award is intended to recognize staff who have:

- Promoted a welcoming and supportive student community.
- Welcomed and encouraged broad perspectives in the classroom or school setting.
- Developed unique or innovative programs and educational opportunities.
- Developed student awareness in the classroom.
- Successfully encouraged staff members to become more active community citizens.

Criteria for selection: Demonstrate a significant contribution toward furthering a positive environment at Caldwell County Schools. The following considerations will be given to all nominations: The following considerations will be given to all nominations:

- Creates a welcoming climate through visibility, communication, and educational efforts
- Encourages other perspectives
- Fosters equitable opportunities within the school
- Creative incorporation of understanding of different backgrounds
- Fosters greater staff engagement

Nomination Process

- Teachers can self-nominate or be peer-nominated.
- Nominator provides a supportive statement that includes how the nominee has demonstrated each of the criteria.
- Two additional letters of support are required that demonstrates how the nominee is meeting the criteria for selection.
- Nominations should include artifacts that demonstrate the accomplishments (e.g., photos, articles, classroom curriculum, project plans, etc.).
- Principal's letter of recommendation.

**Award**

- One \$2,500 Scholarship per award
- Superintendent Letter/Certificate
- Recognition from Google

Funding Distribution: Scholarships will be distributed through the Caldwell Education Foundation's Scholarship program. The intent is that the teacher uses the funding towards professional development or other school-based needs to continue to bring excellence to the classroom.

Conditions

- Applications must be received by the Education Foundation no later than March 1, 2026.
- Recipients will be selected by the Education Foundation Scholarship Committee. The committee reserves the right to require interviews.

About Google in North Carolina

Google has been proud to call Caldwell County home for over 15 years with their data center in Lenoir. Google has employees across North Carolina working in critical functions such as Google Cloud and the infrastructure that makes Google services like Search fast and reliable for users around the world. Google strives to be a great neighbor in the local community, and since 2006, has donated more than \$17 million to North Carolina nonprofits and organizations. In 2022, Google helped provide \$11.26 billion of [economic activity](#) for North Carolina businesses, nonprofits, publishers, creators and developers.