

The Caldwell Fellows

In this edition

- Announcing the Caldwell Fellows Class of 2028
 - Alumni & Selection Weekend recap and photos
 - Upcoming Alumni Involvement Opportunities
 - Day of Giving 2025 Campaign
 - 2026 Camino Trip Expression of Interest
 - Message from the Director
-



Announcing the Caldwell Class of 2028

Wow. Just wow. We did it! Thanks to your dedication and energy, the 2025 Caldwell Fellows selection process was a tremendous success. With your help, we reviewed 350 applications, observed 90 candidates at semi-finals, and interviewed 60 at selection day.

We did all of this thanks to your generosity of time and service. 120 application reviewers, 86 semi-final and finalist interviewers. Thanks to all!

We are now thrilled to welcome 30 of them as the newest members of the Caldwell Fellows Class of 2028—the 58th class of Caldwell Fellows! We will be whisking them away for their first-year retreat this weekend.

[Meet the newest class.](#)



Reflections on Leadership: Caldwell Conversations

This year's Caldwell Conversations Conference brought together alumni and current Fellows for a powerful dialogue on Navigating Leadership Pitfalls. Through storytelling and small-group discussions, participants explored challenges in balancing societal expectations, leading with compassion, and overcoming imposter syndrome. The event highlighted the enduring impact of servant leadership and the strength of the Caldwell community.

[Read more](#) about the key takeaways and inspiring reflections from the conference.



Caldwell Gala: A Celebration of Community

After the energy of Selection Day, we celebrated and reconnected at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. How rare and wonderful to have five generations of Fellows together—280+ this year!

Here's a photo that captures the connections that happen when we come together - the meeting of Betsy West (Class of 1972) and Hannah Sawulski (Class of 2027) who share a commitment to careers in education. *(Thanks to Francisco Itriago for capturing the moment).*

View more photos [here](#). Passcode: fellows.

Get Involved!

There are several ways you can get involved in the life of the program through upcoming events.



Shack-A-Thon Needs Your Help

[Shack-A-Thon](#) is back, and we need your help to remain the top-earning shack! From March 23-28, Caldwells will build and live in a shack on Wolf Plaza to support Habitat for Humanity. With extra competition this year from Park and Goodnight, every donation counts! Help us defend our title by [donating today](#). Thank you for your support!



Join Alumni for Whiskey Wednesday

Join Caldwell alumni for Whiskey Wednesday at Lakeside Kitchen on March 26! Connect with friends old and new while sharing good conversation. Not a whiskey drinker? No pressure—the people are the point!

Location: Lakeview Bar, Park Alumni Center

Date: March 26, 2025 | 5:30–8:00 PM

Hosts: [Rick Witcher](#) '90 & [Andy Moorhead](#) '93

[Sign up here](#)



Become a Pack Leader for Day of Giving!

NC State's Day of Giving is March 26, and the Caldwell Fellows program is looking for some enthusiastic alumni and friends to help us spread the word! Volunteering to be a Pack Leader is not only easy, but it increases the program's visibility on the day which will help us in reaching our goals* for this year's Day of Giving.

What do Pack Leaders do?

Being a Pack Leader means that we're asking you to do these three easy steps:

Make your own gift to the Caldwell Fellows.

Share on social media why you support the program on Day of Giving and why others should join you. If you don't use social media, feel free to ask people to join you via text messages, emails and even phone calls!

Inspire others to give through your personal giving link on Day of Giving.

Being a Pack Leader is easy! Pack Leaders will be provided with a social media toolkit and your own personal link to share with people. You get to choose how frequently you communicate about Day of Giving, but we would recommend posting or reaching out the day before and a couple times on the day, but the final call is yours!

*Future messages will tell you more about our goals and the impact Day of Giving has on the operational funds for the program.

[Sign up to be a Pack Leader today!](#)

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about Pack Leaders, please contact Brodie Smith '24 at bcsmi22@ncsu.edu.

Brightcrowd, our digital hub for alumni connections, has reached 400 members!

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for Brightcrowd (<https://ncsu.brightcrowd.com/caldwell-fellows/>)! We hope you've enjoyed reconnecting with Caldwell Fellows from your class and discovering others in your area.

If you haven't explored Brightcrowd yet, now is a great time to sign in and use the "Class Year" or "Location" filters to see who's in the Caldwell Fellows Book. Start making connections today!

Have your walking shoes ready? Camino 2026.

The Caldwell Fellows program over the past several years has led three different groups of intrepid undergraduates on treks along the Camino de Santiago. We have plans underway to take another student group in May 2026 for a two week trek, and... in response to interest from many of you... plans are in the works for offer a parallel trek for alumni... More to come. If you're very interested in this possibility - email [Janice](#) with a quick note.



Message from the Director

It's Friday afternoon in the Caldwell Fellows office, one week after a new class has been selected. The space is buzzing with upper-class Fellows who have taken it upon themselves to integrate the new Fellows into the work and life of this community. On the office whiteboard is the list of members of the Class of 2028, next to the name of the 'Fellow Fellow' from the Class of 2027 who will welcome and sit with them at their first dinner seminar this coming Sunday evening. I understand that each 'host' has prepared a video introduction of themselves, which new class members will receive before Sunday. I say "I understand" because, frankly, I had nothing to do with it. And that is deeply satisfying. As the wise educator Maria Montessori said: "The greatest sign of success for a teacher... is to be able to say, 'The children are now working as if I did not exist.'"

It's just a snapshot, but for me, it captures a typical day in the life of our program. People often express amazement about how much gets done in Caldwell with only three permanent staff members. Credit goes to all who share the work: the students themselves, our campus and community partners, and countless numbers of you who serve as selection volunteers, coaches, dinner speakers, conversation sharers, newsletter readers, financial supporters, and celebration sharers. Thanks for the parts you play.

As lively and hopeful as our office is, it is not lost on us that many of our alumni and friends are under tremendous stress as unknowns prevail over losing funding for the work you do and your very employment. I welcome hearing from you as you live and lead through times of change. More than ever, our mission is critical to develop leaders of moral clarity, resilience, and courage.

"An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking: it involves the spiritual development of the individual, the enhancement of their value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live." - Maria Montessori, Education and Peace

Peace and courage,

Janice



Caldwell Fellows Program

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Share your news with us..! Help us deepen our connections by sharing your news: changes or celebrations in your life? Use his link to [Share Caldwell Fellows Alumni News](#) and watch for the alumni news feature in upcoming newsletters.