

The Caldwell Fellows

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Caldwell Fellows at the Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima.



Fellows on the Wilderness Expedition in the Sierra Nevadas.



The staff and campers of SATELLITE 2025.



A Month of Transformative Experiential Learning: Celebrating Our May Signature Programs

May 2025 proved to be an extraordinary month for the Caldwell Fellows program, as we facilitated three signature experiences that pushed boundaries, fostered connections, and furthered leadership development. From the bustling streets of Tokyo to the snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada, and from our own campus to partnerships across North Carolina, our Fellows embraced challenges and discovered new perspectives through immersive learning.

Global Learning: Japan - Bridging Cultures Through Partnership

With the expert partnership of Stephen Sumner (1996), Director of the NC Japan Center, we embarked on an incredible journey that took 18 current Fellows across Japan. The adventure spanned multiple cities, each offering unique learning opportunities: exploring the vibrant metropolis of Tokyo, participating in an intercultural leadership summit at Nagoya University facilitated by Stephen, Janice, and Nagoya faculty, discovering the cultural treasures of Kyoto, reflecting on history in Hiroshima, and experiencing innovation at the World Expo in Osaka.

As Mahika Patil '27 said, "There's something powerful in that softness. I carry it with me now: in how I listen, how I wait, how I try to move through the world with more patience and empathy. Not to be perfect, but to be present. I've started to understand that presence isn't always about doing more; sometimes it's about stepping back and creating space. There's a subtle strength in the kind of restraint that values understanding over efficiency." You can read more about the experience [here](#).

By summer's end, our website will feature student reflections on their transformative experiential learning journeys through the Fellows program.

Wilderness Expedition: Conquering New Heights

Under the skillful guidance of our alumni wilderness leadership team- Pablo Campos, Julia O'Brien, and Rob Horner, the 2025 Wilderness Expedition proved to be both a safe adventure and an unforgettable challenge. Our group backpacked across a stunning section of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where record snowfall created unique conditions that tested their resilience. The entire expedition featured cold temperatures, snow camping, and plenty of

warm drinks and group reflection around the campfire—experiences that forged deep bonds and built character.

As Kevin Kim '28 put it, "At the start, I thought, 'This is impossible'. But through meals, shared laughter, frozen fingers, aching muscles, and jaw dropping views, I realized: I'm possible...This trip taught me that what we fear can become what we treasure. I thought I hated backpacking on day one. By day five, I couldn't wait to do it again."

SATELLITE: Launching STEM Dreams Across NC

SATELLITE camp entered a new chapter this year, a full partnership with the NC State Science House. Long a supporter of SATELLITE, the Science House specializes in innovative education for K-12 students across NC. A more formal partnership allows SATELLITE to benefit from the educational expertise of the Science House staff while maintaining the role of Caldwell Fellows and other committed NC State students in the frontline role as counselors and facilitators of the five day residential camp. SATELLITE will continue to be one of the impactful components of hands-on leadership development that has long benefitted our Fellows.

Envisioned by team of Fellows three decades ago, this innovative camp reflects the NC State land grant mission. SATELLITE provides unparalleled service to high school sophomores across rural North Carolina, providing exposure to the range of STEM higher education possibilities through a five day residential camp - for only \$25.00. Individual contributions and major grants combined with the volunteer service of the counselor staff and faculty presenters, make the barrier-free cost possible. SATELLITE's impact shows in the campers who become NC State students and pour their own energies into SATELLITE leadership. Multiple SATELLITE campers have become Caldwell Fellows.

We celebrate the Science House and its Director Dr. Jason Painter for embracing SATELLITE and Dr. Alonzo Alexander who pours his infectious energy into the work with us. We especially celebrate the outstanding leadership of student director Sydney Jett '25 who with great persistence and patience kept SATELLITE on track through this transitional year.

Our deep gratitude!

Each of these experiences was transformative in its own unique way, creating opportunities for growth, leadership, and connection that will resonate with our Fellows for years to come. None of these remarkable programs would have been possible without the generous collaboration of talented leaders both on and off campus, whose partnership makes our mission possible.



New York City, here we come! August 29 - September 1, 2025

We are bringing a group of current Fellows to the Big Apple over Labor Day weekend! NYC folks and those who live nearby, watch for news of an alumni gathering (details in the works!) for Friday evening the 29th. We look forward to having our group meet you and see the city through your eyes.

If you're in New York City or the surrounding area and want to connect with us, email Janice directly at jeodom@ncsu.edu.

Alumni Involvement Opportunities

Being a Caldwell Fellow is a lifelong journey. We have been hearing requests for an increase in the offering of impactful experiences in leadership development in the company of this fine community. Read more below about upcoming opportunities.



Caldwell Dinner Seminars

Monthly dinner seminars have long been the space where all classes of Fellows come together. Our dinner model revolves around thoughtful discussion, which is made richer by those around the table. This year, we are making intentional space for alumni at our dinner tables, knowing that your presence will enrich our gatherings. Dinner seminars are on Sunday evenings, 5 - 7 pm. Use the sign up link below to select a date you'd like to attend for the Fall semester. Our Fall 2025 dates are September 21, October 19, November 16. We will launch sign up for our Spring dinners, January 11, and March 8, later in the year.

[Register for dinner](#)



Selection & Alumni Weekend

February 20 - 22, 2026. Hold the Dates

- **Alumni Conference:** We've heard you. For 2026, we return to our full-day Alumni Conference on Friday of Selection Weekend. Join us for a professional conference focused on the lifelong pursuit of servant leadership on Friday February 20, 2026.
- **Caldwell Conversations:** February 21, 2026 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. An opportunity to engage with current students around areas of common interest.
- **Selection Day:** Saturday February 21, 2026. Serve as an interviewer OR spend your day with current Fellows for conversations on vocation at Caldwell Conversations
- **Gala:** Saturday evening, February 21, from 6:00 to 10:00 pm at the NC Museum of Art. More details to come.
- **Alumni Breakfast:** A final event of the weekend, join us for breakfast at the Park Alumni Center.



Walk the Camino de Santiago

May 11 - 26, 2026

Adventure with us on the historic pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Our plans are to walk the Portugal route to the ancient sacred site of Santiago de Compostela. An alumni group will parallel a group of current Fellows with several occasions for the groups to connect. Two virtual information sessions will be offered for those who want to learn more. Zoom registration is required to attend these events. Register using the hyperlinked dates below.

- [July 9 at 7 PM](#)
- [July 31 at 8 PM](#)

These sessions as well as our next newsletter will include pricing and details.

Alumni Updates

Do you have life updates you'd like to share with our community? Fill out the form below.

Share an update



Connect with NC State Alumni in your Area

Join the NC State Alumni Association as they gather in 27 cities across the country to bring together both new grads and long-time residents to build connections, network and celebrate Wolfpack pride. These events help alumni feel at home - no matter where they've landed. Join up and make your city feel like home! Cities include, but are not limited to Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Dallas, Denver, New York, Washington D.C., and more. Register for your city at the link below.

Learn more and register

Put Your Expertise to Work: Wolfpack Investor Network (WIN)*

As Caldwell Fellows alumni, you have the leadership skills and professional experience that NC State's most promising startups need to succeed. The Wolfpack Investor Network (WIN) connects alumni expertise directly with innovative portfolio companies seeking guidance and mentorship.

WIN offers you multiple ways to engage—from strategic advising and investment opportunities to expanding your professional network within the Wolfpack community. They match your industry knowledge with companies that can benefit most from your experience, creating meaningful partnerships that drive real business results.

Ready to help the next generation of NC State entrepreneurs? Learn more at <https://research.ncsu.edu/win/>. Or contact Tom Laundon, Caldwell Class of 1975, who currently serves as vice chair of the WIN alumni advisory group at tomkinnc@hotmail.com.

Learn more



Friends of the Fellows: Josh Privette

Josh serves as the Director of Leadership Giving in Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving, our home department on campus. In his role, Josh advises us on development strategy, relationship building, and Day of Giving. We are so grateful to have Josh's years of experience helping us.

Josh can be reached at japrive2@ncsu.edu.

Brightcrowd online directory update

Want to see pictures from the Caldwell Fellows program that pre-date your iPhone? Want to see images from ALL 50 wilderness trips? Sign up and sign in to the NCSU Caldwell Fellows BrightCrowd book at www.brightcrowd.com. It only takes 5 minutes, and there are no obligations to update.

This exclusive platform is only available to Caldwell Fellows and special program friends. Already, 485 Caldwell Fellows Alumni are participating! Check it out to see what you're missing.

The BrightCrowd platform offers a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni and revisit cherished memories from your time as a Caldwell Fellow. Don't miss out on this chance to strengthen our community bonds!

Brightcrowd



Caldwell Fellows Program

<https://caldwellfellows.ncsu.edu/>

Campus Box 7121

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Raleigh, NC 27695

Use his link to [Share Caldwell Fellows Alumni News](#) and watch for the alumni news feature in upcoming newsletters.