

NC STATE

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[Caldwell Fellows] November 2025 Newsletter

1 message

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NC STATE**Caldwell Fellows**

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Alumni gathered at an Asheville meet up. From left to right: Jenny and Rick Jackson, Chris Saunders (editor of the NC State Magazine), Janice Odom, David Kemper, Claire Hill, John Olds, and Suzanne Malloy.

Creativity. Critical thinking. Courage. Collaboration.

These are more than aspirational traits—they are capacities we nurture through the lived experiences of Caldwell Fellows. Research confirms what we witness: challenging coursework paired with community-engaged learning, combined with high-impact experiences that stretch worldviews and expand comfort zones, accelerates the kind of growth that matters.

What brings particular satisfaction is watching how alumni have become integral to this developmental work, as speakers and coaches, mentors and wilderness guides, project leaders and thought partners. Increasingly, we hear from them about the reciprocal nature of this engagement: participating in leadership development with students provides a fresh perspective on their own leadership practice. It's a form of lifelong learning that benefits everyone involved.

Alumni also seek the challenge and support of each other. The annual Caldwell Alumni Conference provides that gathering space. This year's conference, designed by our alumni education team, takes place on February 20th as part of a weekend that weaves together learning and connection, the selection of a new class, and celebration with this spirited community.

Details for the weekend are included in this newsletter, and registration links will be coming soon. We hope you'll join us in the kind of collaboration that feeds our thinking and growth as creative, courageous leaders.

~Janice

The Call for Selection Volunteers

Caldwell Fellows Selection Season will soon be upon us. The application closes on January 13, 2026. We expect a record number of applicants again this year. As ever, it's an exciting process and one that we cannot do without dedicated volunteers like you. We need volunteers for each stage of the process. You can learn more about the timelines and commitment of each role below.

- **Online reviews (January 16 - 22)** - this consists of reviewing and ranking a set of applications on your own following our criteria rubric.
- **Semi-finalist day (Saturday, February 7, on Main Campus)** - this is a full day of small group interactions with applicants. This continues to be a fruitful vetting stage in our selection process.
- **Selection day/finalist interviews (Saturday, February 21, on Centennial Campus)** - this is the main event in which each of the 60 finalists are interviewed multiple times and evaluated.

The brief interest form linked below details the stages and timelines. Express your interest by December 16; we will contact you that week to confirm your role.

[Volunteer for Selection](#)

Selection & Alumni Weekend: February 20 - 22, 2026.

Save the date for a full weekend of events:

- Friday, February 20:
 1. Full-day Alumni Conference (details below, registration opens in December)
 2. Evening mixer at the StateView Hotel bar
- Saturday, February 21
 1. Finalist Interviews at the Hunt Library
 2. Caldwell Conversations with current Fellows
 3. Our annual Gala returns to the NC Museum of Art. Ticket sales open in December.

We particularly look forward to acknowledging decade anniversaries for the classes of: 1976 – *Forever Club Graduates* – along with 1986, 1996, 2006, and 2016!

A room block at The State View hotel is now available for the February weekend. Contact the State View Hotel directly to make your reservation. Our room block last year filled quickly...!

2026 Caldwell Alumni Conference: *Rooted “l”eadership: Grounded in values*

In alignment with this year’s Caldwell Fellows focus on rootedness, the 2026 Alumni Conference will explore the kaleidoscope of shared values that are foundational to the program while also considering the sources of our individual values and how they are expressed in our daily lives. We will reflect on how we act on values and how they are expressed through leadership in the big “L” aspects and small “L” moments.

This conference is designed to allow for introspection and collaboration – What is community? How does one respond to the obligation to show up? What does 'leadership for public purpose' look like? What does leading in the quiet ways mean to you and your community? How do you prioritize actionable leadership? How do we help people go into spaces where there are value crunches? Throughout the day we will discuss and explore the moments of curiosity where there is friction and the moments where humanity and commonality can be found in shared values though the approaches may be different.

Our goal is for you to walk away with (re)new(ed) skills to engage in your communities and have bridging conversations through small “L” leadership moments. During the conference, you will also learn about Caldwell Fellows alumni affinity groups that provide a community of practice and further opportunities to dive deeper into these discussed topics.

Conference cost is \$100 and includes learning resources, conference space at the StateView Hotel, breakfast and lunch. Use the CF Alumni Conference Request for Funding Template (link below) to request time off and funding from your employer. We are extremely grateful to our Alumni Education Team: Sonja Jones, Cary Strickland, Ryne Jones, and Sarah Amend for their planning and coordination of this event.

[Funding Request Template](#)

Regional Meet Ups: Gratitude

Thanks to everyone who attended our October Greensboro and Asheville meet-ups. These events were a great chance to reconnect with other Caldwell Fellows alumni and meet members of the current class of Juniors. That wraps up our Fall 2025 meet up calendar. Next, we all look forward to the events of Alumni and Selection Weekend!

Interested in a Caldwell Connect event for your area? Reach out to:

Anne Powers at powersaes@gmail.com or Janice Odom at jeodom@ncsu.edu

Caldwell Dinner Seminars

Monthly dinner seminars are made richer by those around the table. This year, we are inviting alumni to the table. Dinner seminars are on Sunday evenings, 5 - 7 pm. RSVP below to select a date you'd like to attend for the Fall semester. We are now accepting sign up for our Spring dinners, January 11, and March 8, using the form linked below.

Register for dinner

State of the Program Meeting

Thank you to all who were able to join us on Wednesday, October 22nd, for our State of the Program virtual information session. If you missed the session, you can find a recording linked below. Use the passcode MSc0o&dz to access the recording.

Stay tuned for our next State of the Program meeting in March, 2026.

State of the Program Recording



Caldwell Fellows Program

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

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