The North Carolina Awards For Excellence

Based upon the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the North Carolina Award for Excellence (NCAfE) is the top state-level recognition presented to an organization that has demonstrated, through its practices and achievements, the highest level of performance excellence by applying the principles of the Baldrige Excellence Framework.

Baldrige Criteria Crafts the Framework

The Baldrige Excellence Framework provides the tools to examine and improve each aspect of your organization’s performance while keeping the whole organization in mind. The management framework enables leaders at businesses, hospitals, factories, schools and government bodies to examine every layer of the organization and devise strategies to reach goals, improve results and become more competitive by aligning people, plans and processes.

The framework consists of the Criteria for Performance Excellence and offers a recognized way to achieve the following benefits:

- Innovation
- World-class results
- Integrated processes that enhance effectiveness and efficiency
- Organizational learning
- Sustainable success

Why Apply

The Baldrige Excellence Framework is the key to accessing if your organization is doing as well as it could. Organizations receive extraordinary learning associated with applying the Baldrige Excellence Framework through the award application process. Receiving the NCAfE Award is recognition of being among

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**Program Timeline:**

- **Intent to Apply:**
  Postmarked by May 31, 2021
- **Application and Organizational Profile:**
  Postmarked by May 31, 2021
- **Online Examiner Orientation:**
  June 1-10, 2021
- **Examiner 3-Day Training:**
  July 20-22, 2021
- **Award Program Applications Due:**
  August 2, 2021
- **Feedback Report distributed:**
  December, 2021
- **Virtual Excellence Conference and Celebration:**
  March 24-25, 2021

**Interested in Learning More?**

Visit the NCAfE website at go.ncsu.edu/ncafe or contact Kevin Grayson at kevin_grayson@ncsu.edu, or (704) 751-9661.
the best performing organizations in North Carolina. The NCAfE award also satisfies a preliminary requirement for an organization that is interested in seeking recognition from the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

**Program Fees**

In addition to the $250 Intent to Apply fee, there is also an application fee and site visit fees. These are based on the applicant’s number of employees, and range from a total fee of $5,450 for organizations with less 100 employees to $17,450 with organizations of more than 1,500 employees. More information on the fees and overall NCAfE awards process can be found at go.ncsu.edu/ncafe.

**Become an Examiner**

Serving on the NCAfE Board of Examiners is a powerful personal and professional development experience. Starting with annual training and continuing through the applicant evaluation process, networking opportunities abound. In addition, examiners are exposed to the best practices of role model companies. Examiners come from across the state and represent all industry sectors. Most participants complete the training because they want to challenge themselves and contribute in a meaningful way to organizations where they work and the communities where they live. When assigned to an applicant team, examiners are tasked with developing the valuable feedback reports that applicant organizations use to streamline their processes, empower their workforces, and achieve the results they want.