

# Bank of Granite

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Clonch Named Caldwell County 2008 Outstanding Associate of the Year**

Patty Clonch, Valmead Elementary School custodian and bus driver, was named the Caldwell County Schools Outstanding Associate for 2008. Bank of Granite hosted the fourteenth annual event recently at Cedar Rock Country Club in Lenoir. Scott Anderson, Bank of Granite president and chief executive officer, presented Clonch with the award and a check for \$1000 to use as she sees fit at Valmead Elementary.

“The work these associates do is so vitally important,” Anderson said. “They all deserve this recognition.”

Nominated by their peers, associates are non-certified, full-time employees such as teaching assistants, custodians, bus drivers, cafeteria workers and clerical staff. They must demonstrate exceptional job performance and the ability to work well with others.

In addition to Clonch, this year’s nominees are Betty Vance, Baton Elementary; Teresa Young, Collettsville Elementary; Jeannie Davis, Davenport Elementary A+; Alicia Chandler, Dudley Shoals Elementary; Shawn Griffin, Education Center; Michael Smith, Early College High; Sue Kanupp, Gamewell Elementary; Loretta Smith, Gamewell Middle; Roger McCall, Gateway Alternative; Linda Houck, Granite Falls Elementary; Pamela Rice, Granite Falls Middle; Jeff Triplett, Happy Valley; Linda Hatton, Hibriten High; Candy Gragg, Horizons Elementary; Sharon Greene, Hudson Elementary; Betsy Bolick, Hudson Middle; Kathleen McKee-Braswell, Kings Creek; Donna Stevens, Lower Creek Elementary; Jeff Bolick, Maintenance; Sonya Parlier, Oak Hill; Teresa Whitman, Sawmills Elementary; Patricia Kelly, South Caldwell High; Gary Baker, Transportation; Larhonda Carlton, West Caldwell High; JoAnn Taylor, West Lenoir Elementary; Ann Clark, Whitnel Elementary; and Kenneth Robbins, William Lenoir Middle.

The nominee from each school and department received a certificate and pin at the banquet.

“Education is one of the most valuable gifts we give our children,” Clonch said. Asked how she would appropriate the award money at Valmead Elementary she responded, “For books and benches. These are two areas we are trying to update for our students.”

Libby Brown, community services director for Caldwell County Schools, coordinates the program on behalf of the school system. This includes facilitating the nomination process with each school and department.

The Associate of the Year program is under the direction of Karen Warlick, Bank of Granite senior vice president and chief administrative officer. “This program points out the importance of the associate personnel and the major role they can play in shaping and influencing the lives of our young people,” said Warlick.

A committee interviews nominees to determine the final winner of the Outstanding Associate of the Year award. In addition to Brown, committee members include Mike LaBrose, Caldwell County Board of Education; Kelly Melton and Susan Greer, Bank of Granite; last year’s Outstanding Associate of the Year, Irene Tuttle of Hibriten High School; and Bob and Susan Greene, the school system’s Volunteers of the Year.

“This is one of the most important community relations projects the bank does every year,” said Warlick. “We’re proud to sponsor it for this very deserving group for the fourteenth year in a row.”

Bank of Granite and Granite Mortgage are subsidiaries of Bank of Granite Corporation whose stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol “GRAN.” The bank operates 22 full-service banking offices in Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Forsyth, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Watauga, and Wilkes counties. Granite

Mortgage, headquartered in Winston-Salem, originates home mortgages in these counties and in Fayetteville, Greensboro and Salisbury, N.C.



PHOTO CAPTION:

*Shown left to right: Dr. Steve Stone, Caldwell County Schools superintendent; Patty Clonch, Valmead Elementary School custodian and bus driver; Karen Warlick, Bank of Granite senior vice president and chief administrative officer; and Scott Anderson, Bank of Granite president and chief executive officer.*

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