

Bank of Granite

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 10, 2007

Bank of Granite's Associate of the Year Banquet Set for April 24

Bank of Granite's annual Associate of the Year banquet is set for 6:30 p.m. on April 24 at Cedar Rock Country Club. Now in its thirteenth year, the banquet recognizes one associate staff member from each of Caldwell County's schools and departments. The Outstanding Associate of the Year is chosen from this group.

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.

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 human resources director. "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.

Warlick chairs a committee that interviews nominees to determine the final winner of the Outstanding Associate of the Year award. In addition to Warlick and Brown, committee members include Tim Hawkins, Caldwell County Board of Education; Kelly Melton, Bank of Granite; Dean Norman, technology director for Caldwell County Schools; Lisa Widener, assistant principal Gamewell Middle School; and last year's Outstanding Associate of the Year, Ralph Triplett of Hibriten High School.

This year's nominees are Libby Parrish, Baton Elementary; Jessica Woody, Collettsville Elementary; Eugene Fillers, Davenport Elementary; Angie Ingle, Dudley Shoals Elementary; Teresa Benge, Education Center; Elaine Kirby, Early College High; Wendy

Rousselle, Gamewell Elementary; Loretta Smith, Gamewell Middle; Jean Clippard, Gateway Alternative; Lisa Wagoner, Granite Falls Elementary; Rebecca Starnes, Granite Falls Middle; Rich Caisse, Happy Valley Elementary; Irene Tuttle, Hibriten High; James Aydlett, Horizons Elementary; Debra Barlowe, Hudson Elementary; Cory Trivett, Hudson Middle; Joan Bolick, Kings Creek Elementary; Spring Greene, Lower Creek Elementary; Chris Gibbons, Maintenance; Lisa Burgess, Oak Hill Elementary; Alisa Bumgarner, Sawmills Elementary; Debbie Crowder, South Caldwell High; Mark Miller, Transportation; Amanda Gulda, Valmead Elementary; Terry Patterson, West Caldwell High; Annalisa Powell, West Lenoir Elementary; Lorrie Phillips, Whitnel Elementary; and Jordyn Bryant, William Lenoir Middle.

The nominee from each school and department receives a certificate and pin at the banquet. The overall winner receives a plaque and a \$1,000 check from Bank of Granite to be used as they see fit to improve their school.

“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 thirteenth 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.

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