

Bank of Granite

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Tuttle Named Caldwell County 2007 Outstanding Associate of the Year

Irene Tuttle, Hibriten High School drop-out prevention coordinator, was named the Caldwell County Schools Outstanding Associate for 2007. Bank of Granite hosted the thirteenth annual event recently at Cedar Rock Country Club in Lenoir. Scott Anderson, Bank of Granite president and chief operating officer, presented Tuttle with the award and a check for \$1000 to use as she sees fit at Hibriten High School.

“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 Tuttle, this year’s nominees are Libby Parrish, Baton Elementary; Jessica Woody, Collettsville Elementary; Eugene Fillers, Davenport Elementary; Angie Ingle, Dudley Shoals Elementary; Teresa Bengé, 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; 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 received a certificate and pin at the banquet.

“Nothing compares to seeing a child walk across that stage at graduation and knowing that you helped them along the way,” said Tuttle. She said she was proud to receive the award and will use the money to help the children she works with stay in school and graduate.

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 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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Shown left to right: Scott Anderson, Bank of Granite president and chief operating officer, Charles Snipes, Bank of Granite chairman and CEO, Irene Tuttle, Hibriten High School drop-out prevention coordinator, Steve Stone, Caldwell County Schools superintendent.