

2 0 1 1 C H A M P I O N S O F E D U C A T I O N

BELIEF AWARD

BUSINESS ENCOURAGING LEADERSHIP BY INVESTING IN EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE



What is the Champions of Education's BELIEF Award?

The Champions of Education BELIEF award is an annual recognition of area businesses that demonstrate belief in the future of education by partnering with schools to provide them with tools and resources needed for success in the 21st century.

2011 Champions of Education's BELIEF Award Application

Applicant Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate a significant impact on education in the county by contributing in one or more of the ways listed below.

Education Matters Certification Program

By signing on to the Education Matters Certification Program, the business communicates to existing and future employees that **dropping out is no longer an option in Catawba County** by:

- Instituting a hiring policy at your company which states that applicants must have at least a high school diploma or GED to be considered for employment
- Communicating to employees educational issues in Catawba County and the importance of getting involved in schools. (For example: promotion of NC's Leave of Parental Involvement in Schools, employee assistance to obtain high school diploma or GED or higher education degree, conducting employee meetings about education, etc.)
- Providing internship opportunities to students interested in exploring jobs at the business or in the business's field or work

Volunteering

The business actively encourages employees to get involved in schools through programs such as mentoring, tutoring, lunch buddies, reading buddies, WatchDOGS, PTA and/or school event committees, etc.

Financial Contribution

The business supports a school, school system and/or Champions of Education in one of the following ways:

- A pledge to Champions of Education or sponsorship of a Champions of Education event (e.g., Education Roundtable Breakfast meeting)
- Contribution to Champions of Education's Preschool Advancement Program
- Sponsorship of a Champions of Education Teaching Scholarship
- Implementation of an Adopt-a-School program
- Donations of school supplies or participation in Catawba County United Way's School Supply Drive or any other such related program
- Donation of equipment to a school(s)
- Discounted offer for a company product or a rebate program that would benefit school employees, parents or students

Applicants will be reviewed by members of the Champions of Education Selection Committee, and award will be presented at Champions of Education's annual Education Forum on Wednesday, March 17, 2010.

The application deadline is January 31, 2010. For more information, please contact Lamar Mitchell, Champions of Education Director, at 828.328.6000 x.248 or lmitchell@championsofeducation.org.

Send Application To:

Champions of Education
Attn: BELIEF Awards
PO Box 1828, Hickory, NC 28603

Or

Fax: 828.328.1175

BELIEF Award Application (Please Print)

Company Name

Contact Name

Title

Business Phone

Fax

Email

Business Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Employees

Please Provide Typed Responses to the Following on a Separate Sheet.

1. Provide a description of the financial and in-kind support your business has provided either to Champions of Education or a school in any of the three school systems in Catawba County.
2. Provide a statement of your company's policy for granting leave time to volunteer in schools, such as promoting NC's Leave for Parental Involvement in Schools that grants employees of school-age children 4 hours per year leave to volunteer in schools.
3. To the best of your ability, please estimate the number of employees who volunteer in schools and the total number of hours of their volunteer time.
4. Describe the process your company uses to track and monitor employee volunteer hours spent in school or education-related activities.
5. How does your company promote or encourage its employees to volunteer in schools? If this message is communicated through a company mailing, paycheck stuffer or newsletter, please provide a copy.
6. How does your company view its role as a supporter of education and what are its reasons and/or benefits for doing so?