|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| For Immediate Release |  | Contact: | Paige Counts |
| May 10, 2024 |  |  | *Public Information Officer* |
|  |  |  | 828-757-7879 |
|  |  |  | [pcounts@caldwellcountync.org](mailto:pcounts@caldwellcountync.org) |

### Caldwell Economic Development Celebrates Local Industry

Caldwell County Economic Development celebrates the local industries that contribute to the economic prosperity and vitality of Caldwell County during Economic Development Week. With a focus on recognizing achievements, fostering collaboration, and planning for future growth, Economic Development Week highlights the importance of inclusive and sustainable economic development initiatives.

Caldwell County continues to establish itself as a hub for thriving businesses and a desirable community for residents. Using information from the Economic Policy Institute’s Family Budget Map and the Average Private Sector Wage from NC Commerce, the county ranks as the eighth most affordable county in North Carolina for families with children and the eleventh for those without.

"Economic Development Week is a crucial time to reflect on our collective achievements and to plan for a future of inclusive and sustainable growth," said Ashley Bolick, Caldwell County Economic Development Director. “Our Economic Development Advisory Committee has a strategic plan to outlining ways to recruit businesses to the area and we took time to recognize local business and individuals instrumental in the county’s economic growth at our local Industry Appreciation Lunch.”

During the lunch, the Economic Development Advisory Board celebrated industry with awards and recognitions for significant milestones.



Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute was named “Partner of the Year.” CCC&TI has emerged as a state and national model for seamless education, thanks to collaborative efforts with public school systems and local governments in Caldwell and Watauga counties.

FleetGenius, one of the nation's fastest-growing manufacturers and solutions providers for commercial trash compactors and containers, was recognized as Industry of the Year. Employing more than 250 workers, FleetGenius become a cornerstone of Caldwell County's industrial landscape.



Lenoir City Manager Scott Hildebran received the Herman Anderson Award. The award recognizes an individual who exhibits outstanding engagement in the area of economic development and demonstrates sincere efforts to benefit Caldwell County’s economy. Hildebran, who has served as city manager since 2015, spearheaded numerous projects that have enhanced Lenoir’s economic base and overall quality of life.

Lenoir Mirror, founded in 1913, received the Legacy Award. The company continues to uphold its legacy as a premier supplier of mirror and glass products to various industries nationwide. With a century of service, Lenoir Mirror exemplifies resilience, innovation, and enduring commitment to excellence.

Caldwell Economic Development recognized the invaluable partnerships forged with businesses between 2021 and 2023. Those businesses include Adhezion Biomedical, Exela Pharma Sciences, Harmony Timberworks, MDI, and Servpro. Industries commemorating milestone anniversaries in 2023 are Blue Ridge Sanitation (20 years), Marx Industries, Inc, (40 years), D.R. Kincaid Chair (40 years), Caldwell Woodcraving (50 years), Grand Manor Furniture (60 years), Neptco (70 years), Hammary Furniture (80 years), Caldwell Glass (80 years), and Lenoir Mirror (110 years).