For Immediate Release: June 26, 2026

For Media Inquiries:
Bill Holmes, Senior Director of Communications
bholmes@ncruralcenter.org | (c) 919.621-5060

Local Resident Amber Clement Graduates from Leadership Development Program

RALEIGH, NC— Amber Clement of The Caldwell Chamber recently graduated from the NC Rural Center's Homegrown Leaders program, a three-day regional leadership and community economic development program that develops and supports highly motivated leaders committed to regional collaboration.

Amber Clement expressed, "This experience challenged me to think beyond my day-to-day responsibilities and see how every organization, business, and community leader plays a role in shaping our region's future. I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn alongside so many passionate leaders and bring those lessons back to Caldwell County."

The training, held in Boone from June 23 to 25, drew existing and emerging leaders from across North Carolina.

Graduation certificates were presented to the program's 32 participants upon completion of the training.

"Thriving rural communities require capable, committed leaders who are equipped to address challenges and seize opportunities," said Olaunda Green, director of leadership training for the Rural Center. "Homegrown Leaders help cultivate that leadership by developing the skills, confidence, and relationships leaders need to inspire action, strengthen their communities, and help shape a vibrant future for rural North Carolina."

Class participants included local government, health professionals, education, faith, and nonprofit leaders.

“Leadership development is at the core of the Rural Center’s work, and now more than ever, it is important that our leaders are equipped with the skills and tools to foster growth and innovation,” said Rural Center President and CEO Patrick Woodie. “We’re excited to see the impact our Homegrown Leaders graduates will have in their communities and regions to create a thriving future for generations of residents.”

For more information about Homegrown Leaders, visit https://www.ncruralcenter.org/homegrown-leaders/.

###

About the NC Rural Center
The NC Rural Center has worked since 1987 to develop, promote, and implement sound economic strategies to improve the quality of life of rural North Carolinians. The Rural Center serves the state's 78 rural counties with a special focus on people with low-to-moderate incomes and communities with limited resources. To learn more about how the NC Rural Center is developing and supporting rural leaders across the state, visit ncruralcenter.org.

##


HomegrownLeaders
PRESENTED BY THE NC RURAL CENTER
CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION
AWARDED TO
Amber Clement
Presented this 25th day of June 2026


Envisioning a
Better Future
Olaunda Green