

Sunshine Week 2021 will mark the seventh annual awards program from the Sunshine Center recognizing individuals from across North Carolina whose work exemplifies the value we place on keeping citizens informed about their government. Nominations may be submitted by Google form at <https://forms.gle/vs1cyeCSQVWQAxj69> or by email at ncopengov@elon.edu.

The Sunshine Center will accept nominations until March 1, 2021.

The awards program has four categories*:

Advocacy: The purpose of the N.C. Open Government Coalition's Advocacy Award is to recognize individuals whose outstanding advocacy on behalf of government transparency, whether in the halls of government, the statehouse, the courtroom or the public, has led to greater access and greater understanding of public information.

Government: The purpose of the N.C. Open Government Coalition's Government Award is to recognize individuals, and occasionally agencies, within government who have provided outstanding access to public information. That outstanding access may be exemplified by such things as excellence in communication with records seekers, innovation in delivery, and internal training programs.

Journalism: The purpose of the N.C. Open Government Coalition's Journalism Award is to recognize individual journalists, and occasionally news organizations, that have effectively utilized public records to tell stories of significant importance in their communities. Judges may consider such things as persistence required to obtain the information, innovative analysis of public records, and impact on the community.

Citizen: The purpose of the N.C. Open Government Coalition's Citizen Award is to recognize individual North Carolinians whose persistence in seeking access to government information has improved transparency within their communities.

*Awards are granted at the discretion of the NC Open Government Coalition and Sunshine Center board. The Sunshine Center may choose not to give an award in a given year.