



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Rowan County Launches Third Annual Civic Leadership Academy on June 4

**Rowan County, NC** – Rowan County is now accepting applications for the third annual Rowan County Civic Leadership Academy, an eight-week program designed to give residents an in-depth look at how county government works. The 2026 academy begins June 4, with classes held twice each month. The full schedule and application information are available at [www.rowancountync.gov/rccla](http://www.rowancountync.gov/rccla).

Feedback from past participants consistently highlights a deeper appreciation for county employees, a stronger understanding of how complex and interconnected local decisions can be, and a new perspective on the scope of services the county delivers. Many participants cited the program’s budgeting exercises and departmental visits as eye-opening experiences that illustrated both the challenges and responsibilities involved in public service.

“Graduates leave the program with a stronger understanding of the challenges and responsibilities involved in serving the public,” CIO Randy Cress shared. “More importantly, they leave empowered to stay involved and contribute thoughtfully to the future of Rowan County.”

Applications for the third annual Rowan County Civic Leadership Academy are now open. Residents interested in participating are encouraged to apply early. For eligibility requirements, weekly topics, and application details, visit [www.rowancountync.gov/rccla](http://www.rowancountync.gov/rccla) or contact Randy Cress at 704-216-8116.

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Attached:

RCCLA-2025ClassAirport.jpg – Last year’s participants enjoyed a tour of Mid-Carolina Regional Airport’s corporate hangar.

RCCLA-2025ClassBudget.jpg – Last year’s participants played “Let’s Balance!” to learn the challenges of balancing a County budget.

RCCLA-2025ClassParks.jpg – Last year’s participants learning about the County’s Parks & Recreation department while visiting the County’s new Events Center.