

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Contact: Sue Voyles (734) 667-2005

-or- Ed Deeb (586) 393-8800 – B

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MICHIGAN BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION NAMES
“101 BEST AND BRIGHTEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR”
IN WEST MICHIGAN**

March 26, 2009 - WARREN, MI – Being named a “[West Michigan’s 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For](#),” is a designation that hundreds of companies pursue. This year’s winners proved to be companies that deliver exceptional human resources practices.

The [Michigan Business and Professional Association](#) (MBPA) will recognize winning companies at the “West Michigan’s 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For” annual human resources symposium and awards program on Thurs., May 7, 2009 at the Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville, Mich. The event starts at 7:30 a.m. with registration, continental breakfast and networking. A series of interactive educational workshops on human resources practices will be presented, followed by the awards ceremony.

The “West Michigan’s 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For” represent industries as diverse as the automotive, insurance, hospitality, communications and nonprofit sectors. These businesses clearly demonstrated innovative and pioneering human resource strategies. (See attached list for winners.)

Each company’s entry was evaluated by an independent research firm. Nominated companies are assessed by reviewing a number of key measures in categories that include Communication, Community Initiatives, Compensation and Benefits, Diversity and Multiculturalism, Employee Education and Development, Employee Engagement and Commitment, Recognition and Retention, Recruitment and Selection, Small Business and Work-Life Balance.

The winning companies also compete for 10 elite awards, one granted for each category. An overall winner, who has excelled in all categories, is honored with a “Best of the Best” award. The 11 winners of these awards will be announced during the luncheon.

“The selection, recognition and awarding of West Michigan’s 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For allows businesses to showcase their best practices and demonstrate why each of them would be an ideal place for employees to work. This year’s winning companies represent high standards and are an example for other companies to emulate,” said Jennifer Kluge, MBPA chief operating officer and a veteran human resources manager.

The event’s educational component will include two sessions: “Energy, Creativity and Imagination: Creating a Sustainable Culture for Innovation and Engagement,” presented by Richard Sheridan from Menlo Innovations and a panel discussion on “Sustaining Employee Connections in Changing Times,” moderated by Dave Smith from The Employers’ Association. The luncheon and awards

Michigan Business and Professional Association
27700 Hoover Rd.
Warren, MI 48093-6306
(888) 277-6464 * www.michbusiness.org

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ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will feature presenters Suzanne Geha of WoodTV8 and Gary Allen of Wood Radio.

Tickets for the symposium and awards lunch are \$105 for MBPA members; \$130 for non-members. A member table of 10 is \$1,050; non-member tables are \$1,350. Sponsorships are also available. Please contact the Michigan Business and Professional Association's events team at 888-277-6464 or visit www.101bestandbrightest.com.

Sponsors of the "West Michigan's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For" include WOOD Radio, WOOD TV8, Davenport University, Grand Rapids Business Journal, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, McGraw Wentworth, The Employers' Association, AT & T Michigan, DTE Energy, Spectrum Health, Corporate Express, TowerPinkster, Rehmann, Progressive AE, Bronson Healthcare Group and Prince Conference Center at Calvin College.

The "101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For" are presented annually in four markets: Metro Detroit, Chicago, Canada and Western Michigan. Nominations are now being accepted for 2010. Visit <http://www.101bestandbrightest.com> to learn more.

Based in Warren, Mich., the MBPA is the largest business organization of small to medium-sized businesses in Michigan, representing more than 20,000 members who employ more than 200,000 persons. Members include attorneys, physicians, architects, accountants, construction companies, banks, retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers and the like. Member businesses receive numerous benefits including free legal and financial consultations; discounted technology, automotive and office products; employee training and recruitment assistance; and competitive insurance rates. The MBPA is a sister association to the Michigan Food & Beverage Association (MFBA).

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2009 WINNERS

<p>a.j. Veneklasen, Inc. Acoustics By Design, Inc. Adamy + Company, P.C. Advantage Health Physician Network American Axle & Manufacturing – Three Rivers Andy J. Egan Company, Inc Arrow Strategies Art Van Furniture Aspen Surgical Products ATEK Medical Battle Creek Health System Baudville, Inc. BDO Seidman, LLP Beacon Services Inc Beene Garter LLP Blue Care Network of Michigan Borgess Health Alliance Bronson Healthcare Group Business Strategy, Inc. Byron Bank Cintas Corporation Clark Construction Company Clark Retirement Community Coldwell Banker AJS-Schmidt Comcast Cable CompHealth Grand Rapids Consumers Credit Union Crowe Horwath LLP CSM Group Deloitte & Touche USA LLP Easter Seals – Michigan, Inc Elzinga & Volkers Exordium Consulting, LLC Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. Flexco Grand Rapids Community Foundation Greenville Public Schools Gymco Sports Harbor Industries, Inc Harold Zeigler Auto Group Hastings City Bank Herman Miller, Inc Holland Hospital Hope College Hospice of Michigan HUB International Insurance Services Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter, PC Huntington Bank Kendall Electric, Inc. Kforce Professional Staffing L-3 Avionics Systems, Inc</p>	<p>Lake Michigan Credit Union Law Weathers & Richardson PC Life EMS Ambulance LKF Marketing Mavcon Mercantile Bank of Michigan Mercy General Health Partners Michigan Medical, P.C. Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones PLC Miller Johnson PLC NTH Consultants, Ltd. OMNI Community Credit Union Open Systems Technologies Otterbase, Incorporated Pennock Health Services Perrigo Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services Plante & Moran, PLLC Porter Hills Retirement Communities and Services Prima Communications, Inc. Progressive AE Regal Financial Group Rehmann Renaissance Recovery Solutions, LLC Rhoades McKee Rockford Construction Company Saint Mary's Health Care Schawk, Inc. Schupan & Sons, Inc. Seaman's Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Inc. Service Express, Inc. Skanska Spectrum Health Hospitals Stahlin Enclosures TDS Metrocom The Campbell Group The Image Group The Judson Group The Worden Company Thermo Fisher Scientific TowerPinkster Triangle Associates, Inc Trillium Staffing Solutions Valley Oak Financial, PLC Van Wyk Risk & Financial Management Varnum Warner Norcross & Judd LLP Wesco Workstage, LLC Yeo & Yeo, PC, CPAs and Business Consultants Zeeland Community Hospital</p>
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