



Maine Human Resources Group Partners with the State to Kick Off 5th Annual “Best Places to Work in Maine”

Project Offers Resources for Employers to Retain and Attract Top Talent during Challenging Economic Times

Portland, ME—March 24, 2010— The Maine State Council of the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) has kicked off the fifth annual "Best Places to Work in Maine" program. The event, endorsed by, Best Companies Group, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, *Employment Times*, *HR Times* and *Mainebiz*, recognizes companies that have established and consistently fostered outstanding workplace environments.

In June, Best Companies Group will survey all the Maine companies that have registered online by the deadline of May 28. The scientifically validated survey will incorporate a company’s employee benefits and policies and responses from a comprehensive employee engagement and satisfaction survey. The data collected from the assessment will be used to determine the Best Places to Work in Maine.

"The ‘Best Places to Work’ program recognizes that a healthy, vibrant economy starts with a great workplace," said Maine Governor John E. Baldacci. "This program honors businesses that excel in this critical area and also provides valuable resources for employers to get ready for the economic rebound."

“It is easy for companies to get complacent with employee retention programs during tough economic times,” said David Pease, president of the SHRM Maine State Council. “But this is a critical time for employers to get ready for the rebound and have the right tools to retain the great talent they have employed and be in a position to recruit top talent. The ‘Best Places to Work’ program provides the valuable data employers need to grow.”

First place winners of the fourth annual “Best Places to Work in Maine” program in 2009 included Unum, based in Portland, in large size company category and Garrand, also located in Portland in the medium size company category.

“The Best Places to Work Program has been a great human resources tool for our company,” said Marie Clements, Associate Vice President of Human Resources at Unum. “The employee feedback report from Best Companies group helped us to assess our work environment and levels of employee engagement that in turn helps us retain and attract top talent and identify opportunities for improvement.”

The Best Companies Group “Employee Feedback Report” is presented to each participating company, even if they did not make the list. The report includes the summarized employee engagement and satisfaction data, the Maine Benchmark Report, and the transcript of employee written comments. The report is used by many to make significant improvements in their workplace culture.

Any company with at least 15 employees in the state of Maine is encouraged to participate. Companies selected as a “Best Place to Work in Maine” will be announced at a gala event in the fall of 2010. A complete list of top companies will be featured in a statewide publication put out by *Mainebiz*.

Interested companies can apply to participate in the program online at www.bestplacetoworkme.com. The deadline for registration is May 28, 2010, and all registered companies will be surveyed simultaneously following the deadline date.

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