

Best Places to Work winners selected

BY PAT SANGIMINO

Thirty Wichita businesses and five schools have earned "Best Places to Work" distinction and will be honored March 20 at the Hyatt Regency Wichita.

In its fifth year, the Best Places awards luncheon recognizes companies in the Wichita area for having engaged employees.

This is the second year with four divisions. Last year, a school division was added. Other categories include small (10 to 49 employees), medium (50 to 149 employees) and large (150 employees and above).

"We have a great group of winners," says John Ek, publisher of the Wichita Business Journal. "It's an interesting mix of repeat winners and new winners."

There are 13 first-time winners in this year's field. Meanwhile, Cox Communications is the only five-time honoree, while

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Legacy Bank, Hyatt Regency Wichita, Boeing Wichita Credit Union, ICM Inc., and Bank of America are four-time winners.

The large-division field features 10 companies that have combined to be honored as Best Places to Work 31 times.

"That says a lot about the kind of companies they are," Ek says.

Delta Dental of Kansas Inc. and Preferred Health Systems are the sponsors for the event, while Quantum Market Research sponsored the surveys and the Hyatt Regency Wichita is the event host.

The Wichita Business Journal will produce a special publication profiling the winning companies.

"Best Places to Work is something people can feel good about," says Linda Brantner, CEO at Delta Dental of Kansas. "It provides valuable feedback to the participating companies about their strengths and opportunities for improvement."

Companies went through a nominating process. Once nominated, employees of the nominated company were asked to take an online survey. It measured employee engagement through 10 areas, including trust in senior leadership, people practices, manager effectiveness, trust with co-workers and how valued they believed they were by their superiors.

The surveys were tabulated and a formula was used to determine Wichita's best places to work.

"Preferred Health Systems is excited to be involved in this initiative, dedicated to recognizing Wichita's best places to work," says Brad Clothier, a senior vice president and COO at Preferred Health Systems. "As a previous recipient of this recognition, we maintain that pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work, creating a best places to work environment."



Brantner



Small Division (10-49 employees)

American Cancer Society.
Best Western Airport Inn & Conference Center.
Center for Same Day Surgery.
Great Plains Communications.
Greater Wichita Convention & Visitors Bureau.
KK Office Solutions Inc.
Northwestern Mutual Financial.
Ruggles & Bohm PA.
Specs Eyewear.
WDM Architects PA.

Medium Division (50-149 employees)

Allen, Gibbs & Houlik LC.
Edward Jones.
Hinkle Elkouri Law Firm LLC.
Legacy Bank.
Martin, Pringle, Oliver, Wallace & Bauer LLP.
Primary Care Associates.
Quality Solutions.
Scholfield Honda.
Sullivan Higdon & Sink Inc.
Via Christi Home Care.

Large Division (150 employees and above)

Bank of America.
Boeing Wichita Credit Union.
Cox Communications.
Hospice Care of Kansas.
Hyatt Regency Wichita.
ICM Inc.
Key Construction Inc.
MKEC Engineering Consultants Inc.
Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.
Via Christi Wichita Health Network.

School Division

Cessna Elementary.
College Hill Elementary.
Horace Mann Dual Language Magnet School.
Lawrence Elementary.
Wichita Public Schools Instructional Tech.