

Today's News

GUARD Insurance Group is Highest Ranked Insurance Company by Best Places to Work in PA Program

Survey

Website

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Dec. 18 /PRNewswire/ -- GUARD Insurance Group was recently honored as #2 among all large companies in Pennsylvania in the Best Places to Work in PA awards ceremonies held November 29th, 2001, in Harrisburg. This distinction also makes GUARD the highest ranking insurance company in 2001.

The Best Places to Work in PA program is designed to identify, recognize, and honor deserving employers across the state. Nominations were open to the public and finalists were chosen, using the information provided. From a pool of selected finalists, the top 50 large companies (classified as employing more than 250 people) and medium-sized companies (those employing between 50 and 250 people) were identified and ranked on the basis of workplace practices and the results of confidential employee surveys. The selection process followed a model used by Fortune in determining the "100 Best Companies to Work for in America."

Susan W. Shoval, President of GUARD Insurance Group, said, "We are all so honored to have ranked #2 in this prestigious program, not only because the purpose is the advancement of our state's economy but also because this accomplishment is due in large part to the feedback of our employees. At GUARD, we recognize the importance of finding and retaining good people, and we have worked hard to become an employer of choice within our region and our industry. The award helps validate our efforts."

GUARD Insurance Group provides Workers' Compensation coverage and extensive customer services to businesses in the eastern half of the United States through three subsidiaries: AmGUARD, EastGUARD, and NorGUARD Insurance Companies. Through these affiliates, GUARD is licensed to operate in 26 states and the District of Columbia with plans to expand further during the next few years.

The Best Places to Work in PA program is organized by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Central Penn Business Journal, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, Kuntz Leshner LLP, Great Place to Work Institute, Inc., and Team Pennsylvania Foundation. For more information about GUARD Insurance Group or the Best Places to Work in PA program, visit <http://www.guard.com> or <http://www.bestplacestoworkinpa.com>.



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Today's News

Schweiker Administration Honors 100 PA Companies As 'Best Places to Work in PA'

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HARRISBURG, Pa., Nov. 29 /PRNewswire/ -- On behalf of Pennsylvania Gov. Mark Schweiker, Labor and Industry Secretary Johnny J. Butler tonight honored 100 Pennsylvania companies voted "The 2001 Best Places to Work in PA."

The award program, created last year by the Ridge-Schweiker Administration and the Team Pennsylvania Foundation, is the first of its kind offered by a state, and is modeled after Fortune Magazine's "100 Best Places to Work."

"The 100 companies selected as the 'Best Places to Work in PA' are shining examples of the high-caliber employers that make Pennsylvania a leader among states and a competitor among nations," Secretary Butler said. "In the past six and a half years we have made operating a business in Pennsylvania easier than ever before. Those efforts are paying big dividends by improving the quality of jobs available in the Commonwealth."

Designed to recognize two types of businesses, the program ranks 50 medium-sized companies (50 to 250 employees) and 50 large-sized companies (251 employees or more). The companies making the list were chosen by the Great Places to Work Institute using the same formula that enables Fortune Magazine to create its national ranking of the best 100 employers in the country.

A scientific survey is sent to the employers and the employees, and the data is used to rank participants to determine the top companies. The employee evaluation carried 75 percent of the overall weight for the survey. Kuntz Leshner LLP, a Pennsylvania company, scored the employer survey.

"By being good employers, the companies we honor burnish Pennsylvania's reputation as a national leader," said Leroy "Tighe" King, the Team Pennsylvania Foundation's board co-chairman. "Our congratulations are extended to all those who make this state the best place to work."

To be eligible, participating companies must:

- Be a for-profit or not-for-profit business;
- Be a publicly or privately held business;
- Have a facility in Pennsylvania;
- Have at least 50 employees in Pennsylvania; and
- Be in good standing with Pennsylvania's Attorney General and the Department of Revenue.

"This program identifies and recognizes those Pennsylvania companies that have been forward-thinking and successful in creating the ideal working environments," said David A. Schankweiler, publisher, Central Penn Business Journal. "This program also gives Pennsylvania businesses benchmarks to further improve their place of employment and to compete with other states to attract quality employees."

The 2001 Best Places competition is a joint public/private partnership of its founding partners, including Team Pennsylvania Foundation; the Department of Community and Economic Development; Central Penn Business Journal; the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry; and Kuntz Leshner LLP. Team Pennsylvania Foundation, Marsh USA, HealthGuard, Binney & Smith, and Independence Blue Cross sponsored the evening awards ceremony.

Winners will be highlighted in a special newspaper supplement produced by the Central Penn Business Journal for statewide distribution in January 2002.

Team Pennsylvania Foundation is a private, non-profit organization funded with tax-deductible contributions from corporations, foundations and non-public interests. Its purpose is to foster economic growth and community development throughout the state. The Foundation is committed to making Pennsylvania a national leader in job growth.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A list of Pennsylvania's Best 100 Places to Work is attached.

BEST PLACES TO WORK IN PA 2001

Top 50 Large Companies (More than 250 employees)
In Ranked Order

1. Vertex Inc., Berwyn, Chester County
2. GUARD Insurance Group, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County
3. The Vanguard Group, Malvern, Chester County
4. D&E Communications Inc., Ephrata, Lancaster County
5. Dun & Bradstreet Inc., Bethlehem, Northampton County
6. The Phillips Group, Middletown, Dauphin County
7. Lutron Electronics Co. Inc., Coopersburg, Lehigh County
8. Centocor, Malvern, Chester County
9. HealthAmerica Pennsylvania Inc., Harrisburg
10. Bank of Lancaster County, Lancaster
11. American Infrastructure, Worchester, Montgomery County
12. S&T Bank, Indiana, Indiana County
13. Woodloch Pines Resort, Hawley, Pike County
14. East Penn Manufacturing Co. Inc., Lyon Station, Berks County
15. Horst Group, Lancaster
16. Willow Valley Associates Inc., Lancaster
17. Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union, Harrisburg
18. Medrad Inc., Indianola, Allegheny County
19. L. Robert Kimball & Associates, Ebensburg, Cambria County
20. Brethren Village, Lancaster
21. Lancaster Laboratories Inc., Lancaster
22. Clipper Magazine Inc., Mountville, Lancaster County
23. Fulton Bank, Lancaster
24. Harley-Davidson York Inc., York
25. Independence Blue Cross, Philadelphia
26. McClure Company, Harrisburg
27. EDS (Electronic Data Systems), Exton, Chester County
28. Deloitte Consulting, Harrisburg
29. High Industries Inc., Lancaster
30. Buchart Horn, Inc./Basco Associates, York
31. Wenger's Feed Mill Inc., Rheems, Lancaster County
32. Country Meadows Retirement Communities, Hershey, Dauphin County
33. The PMA Insurance Group, Blue Bell, Montgomery County
34. Messiah Village, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County
35. Hershey Entertainment & Resorts, Hershey, Dauphin County
36. Keystone Health Plan Central, Exeter, Luzerne County
37. Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC), Johnstown, Cambria County
38. Hamot Health Foundation, Erie
39. Hilton Harrisburg & Towers, Harrisburg
40. H. T. Lyons Inc., Bethlehem, Northampton County
41. CoreSource Inc., Lancaster
42. Harleysville Insurance, Harleysville, Montgomery County
43. Pride Mobility Product Corp., Exeter, Luzerne County
44. Air Products and Chemicals Inc., Allentown, Lehigh County
45. Keystone Automotive Operations Inc., Exeter, Luzerne County
46. SCT Corporation, Malvern, Chester County
47. Binney & Smith Inc., Easton, Northampton County
48. Novinger Group Inc., Harrisburg
49. Weiler Corporation, Cresco, Monroe County
50. Penn National Insurance, Harrisburg

Top 50 Medium Size Companies (50-250 employees)
In Ranked Order

1. Hefren-Tillotson Inc., Pittsburgh
2. IntelliMark Inc., Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County
3. Byers' Choice Ltd., Chalfont, Bucks County
4. Devon Consulting, Wayne, Delaware County
5. Reprint Management Services, Lancaster
6. McNees, Wallace & Nurick, Harrisburg
7. Reynolds Construction Management Inc., Harrisburg
8. Erdman, Anthony, and Associates Inc., Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County
9. Auntie Anne's Inc., Gap, Lancaster County
10. Brandywine Realty Trust, Newtown Square, Delaware County
11. Perfect Order Inc., Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County
12. McCormick, Taylor & Associates Inc., Philadelphia
13. Rettew Associates Inc., Lancaster
14. Somerset Trust Company, Somerset
15. HealthGuard, Lancaster
16. Boyer & Ritter, Camp Hill, Cumberland County
17. C. S. Davidson Inc., York
18. Larson Texts Inc., Erie
19. United Cerebral Palsy of Central Pennsylvania (UCP Central PA), Camp Hill, Cumberland County
20. Peoples National Bank, Hallstead, Susquehanna County
21. Benatec Associates Inc., New Cumberland, Cumberland County
22. Herbert, Rowland & Grubic Inc., Harrisburg
23. Restek Corporation, Bellefonte, Centre County
24. R-V Industries Inc., Honey Brook, Chester County
25. Playworld Systems Incorporated, Lewisburg, Union County
26. Electronic Ink Inc., Philadelphia
27. Alvin H. Butz Inc., Allentown, Lehigh County
28. Stoner Associates Inc., Carlisle, Cumberland County
29. A Second Chance Inc., Pittsburgh
30. Keystone Peer Review Organization, Harrisburg
31. WITF Incorporated, Harrisburg
32. 1st Summit Bank, Johnstown, Cambria County
33. Diamond Manufacturing Company, West Wyoming, Luzerne County
34. PolyOne -- Engineered Films Group, Lebanon
35. George J. Hayden Inc., Hazleton, Luzerne County
36. Skelly and Loy Inc., Harrisburg
37. Wilton Armetale, Mount Joy, Lancaster County
38. Citizens National Bank of Evans City, Butler
39. DENTSPLY International -- Corporate Office, York
40. Brinjac Engineering Inc., Harrisburg
41. XiTech Corporation, Carnegie, Allegheny County
42. Tech Tool & Mold Inc. and Tech Molded Plastics LP, Meadville, Crawford County
43. Bingaman and Son Lumber Inc., Kreamer, Snyder County
44. BEA Inc., Pittsburgh
45. Progressive Information Technologies, Emigsville, York County
46. Urban Engineers Inc., Philadelphia
47. C. S. Integrated -- Lancaster, Mountville, Lancaster County
48. Silvertip Inc., Lewisburg, Union County
49. Hauck Manufacturing Company, Cleona, Lebanon County
50. iCepts Technology Group Inc., Middletown, Dauphin County

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