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Applications Now Being Accepted for the Fifth Annual Best Places to Work in Kentucky Awards Competition

FRANKFORT, Ky. (August 13, 2008) – The Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) state council and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce are now accepting applications for the fifth annual **Best Places to Work in Kentucky**. The program is a multi-year initiative encouraging companies in the Commonwealth to focus, measure and advance workplace environments toward excellence. If you think your company is one of the Best Places to Work in Kentucky, apply today. **Friday, Oct. 31, 2008** is the application deadline for the fifth annual Best Places to Work in Kentucky initiative. Registration information and further details about the program can be found online at www.bestplacestoworkky.com.

Best Companies Group will survey participating companies and reveal award winners in January 2009. Award winners will receive a final ranking at the awards ceremony on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 in Lexington. The list of rankings and in-depth interviews with the winners will also be published in the Best Places to Work in Kentucky supplement that will be distributed at the conclusion of the awards event.

Winners will be selected from two categories, featuring medium-sized companies of 25 to 249 employees and large-sized companies consisting of more than 250 employees. The selection process is based on an assessment of the company's employee policies and procedures and the results of an internal employee survey. Best Companies Group manages the assessment and survey based on research and list selection. All participating companies will receive the survey feedback, enabling them to develop plans and implement necessary steps to create a great workplace and continue to improve business performance. These companies will also receive a 30-minute phone session with Best Companies Group consultants to evaluate results of the assessment findings report.

Numerous studies show a strong correlation between profitability and a positive work environment. The Best Places to Work in Kentucky initiative is similar to the prominent *Fortune* magazine list announcing the "100 Best Companies to Work for in America." Thousands of companies are assessed annually to compete for this prestigious national recognition. In addition to the positive effect the award has on employee relations and recruitment, the driving force for companies to participate in this program is the remarkable effect workplace improvements can have on a company's bottom line.

Kentucky has more than 17,000 companies that employ 25 or more associates. While it is no secret Kentucky is a great place to live, our people must be able to affiliate with great workplaces to demonstrate their talent. The goal of Best Places to Work in Kentucky is to raise the bar among the state's employers and create the kind of excellence and employee satisfaction in the workplace that will attract talented people for years to come. This initiative is integral for Kentucky to compete in both national and global arenas.

About Kentucky Society of Human Resource Management

The Kentucky Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) organization consists of 13 local chapters throughout the state and membership of approximately 2,300 human resources and business professionals from various industries. State councils provide a structure for key volunteer leaders in the state to consult together on the affairs, activities, needs and problems of SHRM in the state. They also provide structure to adopt programs that promote the progress and welfare of SHRM, including providing channels of communication between chapters, state councils and area boards; services to members of the human resource management profession within the state; and leadership training at the state level.

(more)

About the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

From its beginnings in 1946 as a bipartisan voice for business at the state Capitol, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce has evolved into the premier business association in the state. Today the Chamber represents more than 12,000 business leaders — from Fortune 500 companies and family-owned shops — who share a strong interest in the state's economic future. Kentucky employers benefit from a broad range of services offered through Chamber membership: year-round lobbying, timely communications on business issues, publications and seminars on evolving regulations and policies, and a variety of other member benefits.

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