



EDWARD JONES, PADUCAH BANK TAKE HOME TOP HONORS AT BEST PLACES TO WORK IN KENTUCKY AWARDS PROGRAM

Presented by **Anthem** 

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FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 31, 2006) – The Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) state council and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce announce the rankings (see attached list) for the second annual competition naming the “**2006 Best Places to Work in Kentucky**,” presented by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The program is a multi-year initiative to move companies in the commonwealth to focus, measure and move their workplace environments toward excellence. Best Companies Group surveyed 41 participating companies and revealed the list of winners in gala awards ceremony yesterday at the Lexington Convention Center.

The Best Places to Work in Kentucky initiative is similar to the famous *Fortune* magazine list announcing the “100 Best Companies to Work for in America.” In addition to the positive effect the award has on their employee relations and recruitment, the driving force for companies to join in this program is the remarkable effect that workplace improvements can have on their bottom lines. Numerous studies show a strong correlation between profitability and creating a good place to work.

Kentucky has over 17,000 companies that employ 25 or more associates. While it is no secret that Kentucky is a great place to live, our people must be able to affiliate with great workplaces to demonstrate their talent. The goal is 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.

Winners were selected from two categories, featuring medium-sized companies of 25 to 199 employees and large-sized companies consisting of 200 employees or greater. The selection process is based on an assessment of the company’s employee policies and procedures and the results of an internal employee survey. This process is managed by Best Companies Group, with the research and list selection conducted by ModernThink LLC. The survey feedback that all participating companies receive will enable them to develop the plans and implement the steps necessary to create a great workplace and continue to improve the performance of their business.

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The 2006 Best Places to Work in Kentucky rankings are as follows:

Large Companies (200 employees or greater)

1. Edward Jones	Louisville
2. First Residential Mortgage Network, Inc.	Louisville
3. Baptist Hospital East	Louisville
4. KORT-Kentucky Orthopedic Rehab Team	Louisville
5. Georgetown Community Hospital	Georgetown
6. Stites & Harbison PLLC	Louisville
7. Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance	Lexington
8. Yum! Brands, Inc.	Louisville
9. Central Baptist Hospital	Lexington
10. Saint Joseph HealthCare	Lexington
11. Fischer Homes	Crestview Hills
12. Atmos Energy Corporation	Owensboro
13. Pulaski County Board of Education	Somerset
14. St. Elizabeth Medical Center	Edgewood
15. Fifth Third Bank	Lexington
16. Gallatin Steel Company	Ghent
17. East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc.	Winchester
18. First Federal Savings Bank	Elizabethtown
19. Central Bank & Trust Company	Lexington
20. Norton Healthcare, Inc.	Louisville
21. Stock Yards Bank and Trust Company	Louisville

Medium Companies (25 to 199 employees)

1. The Paducah Bank & Trust Company	Paducah
2. Benefit Insurance Marketing	Lexington
3. Dean, Dorton & Ford, PSC	Lexington
4. Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney, PLLC	Lexington
5. New Equity Mortgage	Louisville
6. Crowe Chizek and Company LLC	Louisville
7. Chilton & Medley CPAs	Louisville
8. Woodward, Hobson & Fulton, LLP	Louisville
9. SouthEast Telephone	Pikeville
10. Appriss Inc.	Louisville
11. Paul Schultz	Louisville
12. BACK Construction, Inc.	Lexington
13. Deming, Malone, Livesay & Ostroff CPAs	Louisville
14. Fellon-McCord & Associates	Louisville
15. Compressed Air Parts & Services	Mayfield
16. South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation	Somerset
17. Buggies Unlimited	Richmond
18. Catholic Health Initiatives	Erlanger
19. New Mather Metals, Inc.	Franklin
20. Lexington Diagnostic Center & OPEN MRI	Lexington

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