

For Immediate Release

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**BestCompaniesAZ.com Makes it Easy for Career Seekers
to Identify Great Companies to Work For in Arizona**
Revamped Web site also a resource for employers.

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Nov. 5, 2008 – If you’re looking for a job, then stick with the general Internet job boards. But if you’re looking to land a great career with a great company, then try BestCompaniesAZ.com, a niche Web site featuring Arizona companies recognized as a great place to work.

Since 2003, BestCompaniesAZ (BCAZ)—an Arizona -based human resources consulting firm dedicated to helping companies strengthen and build great workplaces—has been recognizing the best companies in the Phoenix metro area. The organization, in partnership with *The Phoenix Business Journal*, presents businesses with its Best Places to Work award annually.

BCAZ’s recently redesigned and enhanced Web site now showcases all of the Arizona-based award winning companies from national and state “best company” award programs, including *Fortune* magazine’s and *HR Magazine*’s “Best Companies to Work for in America,” the “When Work Works Arizona Flexibility Awards,” Arizona Small Business Association’s (ASBA) “Comerica Best Companies to Watch,” and others.

“BestCompaniesAZ’s goal is to identify, develop and promote Arizona’s best companies statewide,” said BCAZ Founder and President Denise Gredler. “Our Web site gives career seekers quick and easy access to companies with award-winning workplaces and employers the opportunity to be recognized and promoted all year.”

To help Gredler identify all of Arizona’s “best companies,” BCAZ has formed strategic alliances with other organizations that share a common vision, including When Work Works Arizona, ASBA and the Arizona Society of Human Resources Management State Council.

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“As the host and manager of *When Work Works* in Arizona—a nationwide initiative spearheaded by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Work Life Institute out of New York—our goal is to increase the overall participation of Arizona companies throughout Arizona in implementing effective flexibility programs by partnering with BestCompaniesAZ”, said Chandler Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Jerry Bustamante. “The program’s expansion will position Arizona companies to be more competitive in order to attract and retain a solid and qualified workforce for the future,” added Bustamante.

“ASBA has joined forces with BCAZ because we’ve seen firsthand the benefits and impact on economic growth associated with these types of competitions through our program,” said ASBA Marketing Director Sherry Azzarella.

“BCAZ has been a committed partner in Maricopa County nominating best companies—just as the Comerica Bank Arizona Companies To Watch awards—for their excellence in employee practices. We’re excited about the opportunity to expand this partnership statewide,” said ASBA CEO Joan Koerber-Walker.

“We are so proud to partner with Denise Gredler and her team,” said Arizona Society of Human Resources Management State Council (AZSHRM) President Sandra Vincent. “BestCompaniesAZ gives Valley employers a place to showcase their best practices and share why they are one of Arizona’s best companies. We will work with human resources professionals and chambers across the state to support this community outreach and continue to provide educational opportunities so all employers can strive to become one of the elite ‘Best Companies in Arizona.’

“The BestCompaniesAZ Team looks forward to partnering with these great organizations and promoting all of Arizona’s award-winning companies,” added Gredler. “By joining forces, we can increase our state’s exposure as a great place to work and live, thus creating a healthy competitive spirit of improving workplaces for the benefit of employees, employers and Arizona.”

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Decades of research demonstrate a positive correlation between progressive people practices and increased financial performance. For instance, publicly held companies on *Fortune* magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For" list historically have far outperformed the stock market averages over recorded three-, five- and 10-year periods. The same correlation can be found among local "Best Places to Work" companies when comparing their performance to the S&P 500. The Phoenix public companies showed a return of almost double the S&P 12 month return.

Requests from the business community have prompted Gredler to expand BCAZ's vision of identifying, developing and promoting Arizona's best companies across the state over the next two years.

Arizona-based associations or organizations interested in partnering with BestCompaniesAZ can contact Denise Gredler at denise@bestcompaniesAZ.com or call 480-545-5151.

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About BestCompaniesAZ BCAZ

BestCompaniesAZ is founding partner of the metro Phoenix Best Places to Work in the Valley program and BestCompaniesAZ.com. BCAZ is dedicated to building and recognizing great workplaces in the state of Arizona. BCAZ specializes in "best place to work" employee surveys, best practice benchmarking, local and national award consulting, and helping "Arizona's Best Companies" increase their brand awareness and/or recruit business professionals by promoting their company and careers on BestCompaniesAZ.com. For more information visit www.BestCompaniesAZ.com.

About ASBA

Since 1973, ASBA (Arizona Small Business Association) has provided the connectivity, information and resources businesses need to grow. ASBA serves more than 3,000 businesses, statewide and through them more than 200,000 employees. ASBA's mission is to grow Arizona businesses and through them, Arizona's economy. ASBA has ranked as the number one Professional Association by The Business Journal's Book of Lists from 2004-2008.

About the Edward Lowe Foundation

The Edward Lowe Foundation is a private, not-for-profit operating foundation whose mission is to "champion the entrepreneurial spirit." The foundation believes growing second-stage companies deserve significant recognition. Headquartered in Cassopolis, Michigan, the foundation works with entrepreneur-support organizations nationwide to encourage peer learning among second-stage business owners. For more information, visit www.edwardlowe.org/.

About the Chandler Chamber of Commerce – Host, *When Work Works Arizona*

The Chandler, Arizona, Chamber of Commerce will be acclaimed as a leader and catalyst to facilitate business prosperity and foster a premier community. The Chandler Chamber supports business and the community by providing vital programs and services that attract and retain business while embracing its diversity. The Chamber constantly monitors the pulse of the business community, providing relevant input and taking action. All its programs and services have been designed with business growth in mind. In 2012, the Chandler Chamber of Commerce will celebrate 100 years of diligent support and advocacy of business in the market.

Arizona SHRM State Council

The mission of the Arizona SHRM State Council is to promote the educational and other non-profit purposes of the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) by providing support and leadership to SHRM members and chapters. Visit <http://www.azshrm.org> for more information on membership benefits.