

BEST PLACES TO WORK 2010

and Best Employees in Community Honored at 3rd Annual Luncheon

Top to Bottom:
 program emcee Amy George,
 David Mathis (ServisFirst Bank),
 John Broyles (Tec-Masters),
 Kathy Braod (QTEC)



Dr. O'Neal Smitherman, left, accepts on behalf of the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology.

Winners for Best Places to Work:

25-74 workers: Edward Jones; QTEC, Inc.; QuantiTech, Inc.; Servis1st Bank; Venturi, Inc.

75-249 workers: Avion Solutions, Inc.*; HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology; Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation*; Modern Technology Solutions, Inc.*; Tec-Masters, Inc.*

250 or more workers: Camber Corporation*; ITT-CAS Corporation*; Dynetics, Inc.; ERC, Inc.; URS

Winners for Best Employee:

25-74 workers: David Mathis, ServisFirst Bank; Susie Burns-Vaughn, PeopleTec Incorporated.

75-249 workers: Kathy Cagle, Modern Technology Solutions, Inc.; Teresa Bacon, NEXTEK Inc.

250 or more workers: Andrew Knapper, URS; Valerie Singleton, URS

* Two time Best Places to Work winner

*^ Three time Best Places to Work winner

It takes a commitment to excellence and continuous improvement balanced with an understanding of the value of providing employees a positive, stimulating work environment to be named one of the Best Places to Work in Huntsville, Madison and Madison County. With more than 100 companies vying for top honors, it truly takes the best of the best to make the list, and on April 20, the best 15 companies were selected – while six employees were named the Best Employees in Huntsville, Madison and Madison County at the third annual Best Places to Work awards luncheon. The event was co-hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County and the North Alabama Society for Human Resource Management and sponsored by First Commercial Bank.

Amy George, former news anchor and founder of the Melissa George Neonatal Memorial Fund, emceed the event attended by almost 700 proud employers and employees.

Winners were based solely on a survey completed by employees and were selected in three categories: organizations with between 25 and 74 local employees; organizations with between 75 and 249 local employees; and employers with 250 local employees or more.

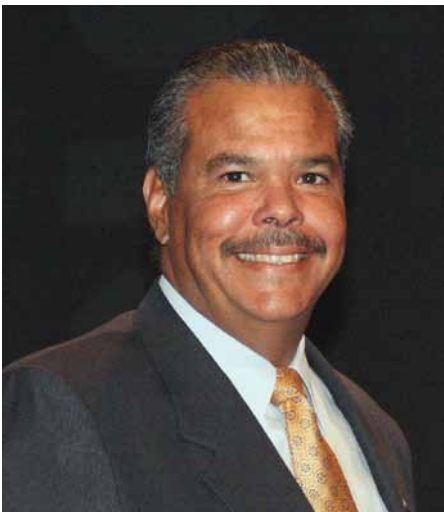
This year, the top employee award was added to recognize the outstanding achievements of the local workforce. Each of the employees selected were nominated by their co-workers and were selected based on receiving the highest percentage of nominations.

"I am very proud to work with an outstanding team of bankers at ServisFirst. Every employee is committed to our clients and I'm humbled that my team nominated me when in fact, they are the reason for our success," said David Mathis, employee winner in the small company category.



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Top to Bottom (left): Chad Donald (Avion), Kathy Cagle (MTSI), Rey Almodóvar (Intuitive Research & Technology Corporation), Melodie Wade (Edward Jones) Below: Sheila Brown (QuantiTech)



Above (L-R): George Pruitt (ITT CAS), Susan Wu (ERC), Stephen Kee (Camber Corporation), Marc Bendickson (Dynerics), Mary Bissell (URS), Andrew Knapper (URS), Valerie Singleton (URS)

At left: Michael Alvarez (Venturi)

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Jeremiah Knight, vice chair for workforce at the Chamber and otherwise the director of customer service at Verizon Wireless, opened the event and said winning in such a competitive business environment is something that should not be taken for granted.

"We are coming off a year in which our community was widely considered one of the best and smartest places to live, work and play," Knight said. "From Kiplinger's to Forbes, Moody's and U.S. News & World Report, our community is generating incredible positive recognition. Those companies announced as the Best Places to Work, and those people announced as the Best Employees, should know they are the best of the best. In this area that means a lot."

"This was our second year to win this honor but it meant so much more this year because we faced tremendous growth and jumped into another category. We felt it was important to participate this year to get a sense of where we need to improve and what we found was that we were continuing to do the right things. Because this honor is based on our employee surveys, we got a true sense of how our employees feel about our company and that means so much to us. Knowing that we are treating our employees right is the best thing about this honor," said Kathy Cagle, Modern Technology Solutions, Inc. recruiting manager.

According to Cagle, Modern Technology Solutions, Inc. uses the results from the survey to build upon what they are doing well and change other areas that need improvement. This strategy of continuous improvement is working for them and the six other companies that were multiple year winners on the Top 15 Best Places to Work list.

Quantum Workplace measured and selected companies based on the following criteria: Team Effectiveness, Retention Probability, Alignment with Goals, Trust with Co-workers, Individual Contribution, Manager Effectiveness, Trust in Senior Leaders, Feeling Valued, Work Engagement, and People Practices.

Once nominated, Quantum, a company that specializes in measuring workplace satisfaction around the country, administered a survey to employees and tabulated the results. Winners were based exclusively on the outcome of the employee surveys.

• Loren Traylor



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