

Area businesses win 'Oklahoma Certified Healthy Business' recognition

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The 2008 Oklahoma Certified Healthy Business program sponsored by Oklahoma Turning Point Council, Oklahoma Academy, The State Chamber, and Oklahoma State Department of Health announced that one business in Washington County has been selected for the 2008 Oklahoma Certified Healthy Business Award of Excellence. In addition, one received Certificate of Recognition for providing health and wellness opportunities and working to improve the health status of Washington County residents.

These outstanding businesses will be honored on Tuesday during a special luncheon at the Phillips Pavilion at the Governor's Mansion.

Receiving the Award of Excellence was the Washington County Health Department in Bartlesville. The company receiving the Certificate of Recognition was the City of Bartlesville.

"The Washington County Wellness Initiative would like to congratulate all of the award winners. We hope other companies and educational facilities will be encouraged to participate in this program and compete for awards next year," said M'Liss Jenkins, WCWI chair. "By working together, we can all have a positive impact on helping to improve the health of Oklahomans at home, in the community and on the job," Jenkins said.

The Oklahoma Certified Healthy Business program was initiated in 2003 and so far, 497 certificates have been awarded to businesses certified statewide. The three categories are: Certificates of Excellence, Certificates of Merit and Certificate Awards.

Those categories are then broken down into groups by size as follows: Small workplaces of 1-25 employees, medium workplaces of 26-100 employees, large workplaces of 101- 999 employees, and corporate workplaces of 1,000 or more employees. Employer types are grouped as education, or for-profit, or non-profit.

To be certified, businesses must meet specific criteria, including providing employee health screenings, workplace health and nutrition education, opportunities for physical exercise activities, management support for healthy workplace environments, tobacco use prevention activities, and sharing wellness activities within their respective communities.

To learn more about the Oklahoma Certified Healthy Business program, visit the Oklahoma Turning Point Council Web site at www.okturningpoint.org.