



Published January 01, 2009 12:10 am

Oklahoma Certified Healthy Business program recognizes area firms

Transcript Staff

Nine businesses in Cleveland County have received 2008 Oklahoma Certified Healthy Business Awards of Excellence, as selected and sponsored by the Oklahoma Turning Point Council, Oklahoma Academy, The State Chamber and Oklahoma State Department of Health. In addition, 11 county businesses received Awards of Merit, and six received Certificates of Recognition for providing health and wellness opportunities and working to improve the health status of Cleveland County residents.

"The Cleveland County Health Department 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 Cleveland County Health Department Administrator Shari Kinney.

The businesses will be honored Jan. 13 during a luncheon at the Phillips Pavilion at the Governor's Mansion. Area companies receiving the Awards of Excellence were SYSCO Food Services of Oklahoma; Nextep of Norman; Center for Children and Families; Norman Regional Health System; Lifecare Home Health Hospice; Meals on Wheels; Rely on Rehab of Norman; The Cleveland County Health Department -- Norman office; and Noble Public Schools.

Area companies receiving Awards of Merit were The Cleveland County Health Department ? Moore office; Moore-Norman Technology Center; Oklahoma Electric Cooperative; Astellas Pharma Technologies of Norman; Norman Public Schools; Immuno-Mycologics (IMMY) of Norman; Ross Healthcare of Norman; City of Norman; Cleveland County Family YMCA of Norman; Vernon L. Smith and Associates Inc. of Norman and American Red Cross Heart of Oklahoma chapter.

Area companies receiving Certificates of Recognition were Republic Bank and Trust; RiskMetrics Group of Norman; Hitachi Computer Products (America) of Norman; Central Oklahoma Community Mental Health of Norman; Farmers Insurance of Noble and City of Noble.

"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," Kinney 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, 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.

Oklahoma's Turning Point Council was created in 1998 and is acknowledged as a national model for involving the efforts of organizations, communities and consumers to maintain and improve the health of Oklahoma's citizens.