

Press Release



October 19, 2011
For Immediate Release

Contact: Julie Scott
803-255-2628; julie.scott@scchamber.net

EXCELLENCE IN WORKPLACE DIVERSITY WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Columbia, S.C. –The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce recognized the state’s top companies (large, medium and small) in the field of diversity October 18 at the 7th Annual South Carolina Excellence in Workplace Diversity Awards, presented by Fisher & Phillips LLP.

In the small employer category, the 2011 Excellence in Workplace Diversity Award was presented to **Erwin Penland**, which has a diversity and inclusion council that strives for economic inclusion through supplier diversity while foresting a culture that attracts and retains diverse talent. Erwin Penland also provides extensive pro-bono, financial and volunteer leadership support to community and industry diversity efforts. The company’s recognitions include receiving coveted Effie Awards for multicultural marketing and recently being named one of the *2011 Best Places to Work in South Carolina*.

In the medium employer category, the 2011 Excellence in Workplace Diversity Award went to **Time Warner Cable**. Diversity and inclusion are part of the fabric at Time Warner Cable. They are a commitment and an attitude, and they impact the way Time Warner Cable involves, understands and meets the needs of its employees. Time Warner Cable’s employee networks are formed around a common dimension of diversity, interests and experiences as well as being inclusive and open to all employees.

In the large employer category, the 2011 Excellence in Workplace Diversity Award was awarded to **Palmetto Health**. To fulfill its future goals of having more intentional inclusivity and mentoring for future leadership positions, Palmetto Health tracked internal promotions and external hiring into leadership by race and gender. Palmetto Health also identified and designed a process to build a diversity toolkit on its internal website to include the diversity charter, diversity task force members, summary of diversity work quadrants, a presentation on diversity education delivered in leadership courses and other resources for leaders to use in getting the diversity message hardwired.

Other Diversity Award Nominees Included:

The Boeing Company
First Sun EAP
Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.
Santee Cooper
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

Savannah River Remediation
Select Health of South Carolina
Spartanburg Water
U.S. Engine Valve
Verizon Wireless

“The businesses being honored this year for their outstanding diversity initiatives understand the importance of respecting their employees’ differences through collaborative approaches,” said Otis Rawl, president and chief executive officer of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. “Workplace diversity brings a greater variety of ideas to the table and creates a positive environment for employees, which allows businesses to successfully compete in a global marketplace.”

Several criteria are considered in choosing companies for the Excellence in Workplace Diversity Awards, including ongoing company diversity initiatives, measurable objectives established to evaluate the success of diversity initiatives, implementation techniques, and roadblocks and how they were overcome.

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the nation’s first state chamber Accredited with Distinction by the U.S. Chamber, is the state’s largest statewide broad-based business and industry trade association representing more than 6,500

member companies and more than 600,000 member employees, with 90 percent of membership comprised of small businesses. As the unified voice for business and industry, the Chamber is a catalyst for increasing per capita income and enhancing the state's global competitiveness in order to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians.

www.scchamber.net.

###