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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Geania Dickey, Program Coordinator

Governor's Work-Life Balance Award

501-407-0720

[Geaniadickey@aol.com](mailto:Geaniadickey@aol.com)

## **Governor's Work-Life Balance Award turns 10** ***Program honors employers with creative family-friendly benefits***

**LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (May 8, 2012)** – The Governor's Work-Life Balance Award celebrated its 10th year Tuesday with an award ceremony at the Peabody Hotel. More than a dozen Arkansas employers were recognized for adopting exemplary strategies that support a healthy work-life balance.

Each year, employers that are considered for the awards answer an array of survey questions about the supportive benefits they offer. The latest survey shows that employers have made great progress over the last 10 years. From the start of this initiative, the number of Arkansas employers that said they offered flexible start/end times increased from 85 to 93 percent, the number of employers that said they offered compensation for military leave increased from 43 to 61 percent, and the number of employers with a work-life balance policy increased from 43 to 61 percent.

"When this program began a decade ago, the goal was to encourage employers around the state to look for innovative ways to offer benefits that made workers happy and increase productivity," said Governor Mike Beebe. "The organizations honored here today are proof that companies can achieve balance in all aspects of their lives and retain skilled employees. "

Earl Maxwell, CEO of St. David's Foundation in Texas and a longtime advocate for family-friendly policies, presented the keynote address at the event, which recognized Arkansas companies that help employees strike a healthy balance between work and family issues. Maxwell was the event's first keynote speaker in 2003 at what was then called the Governor's Family-Friendly Balance Awards.

Two companies were named Work-Life Ambassadors at this year's event – Arkansas Education Television Network of Conway and the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Ambassadors share their

expertise and success stories with other Arkansas employers in an effort to assist them with their work-life balance issues. AETN was also named a Mature Worker Ambassador.

Five companies were honored with the Spotlight Award which recognizes organizations that provide exemplary strategies that support a healthy work-life balance. The Spotlight Award winners were:

- Healthy Connections Inc., Mena
- Arkansas Power Electronics International Inc., Fayetteville
- Garver LLC, North Little Rock
- Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center, Bentonville
- Maverick Transportation LLC, North Little Rock

Other award winners were:

**Small Company:**

- Hutchinson Financial Inc., Little Rock

**Medium Company – For Profit:**

- Transamerica Employee Benefits, Little Rock

**Large Company – For Profit:**

- Science Applications International Corporation, Little Rock
- The Procter & Gamble Distributing Company, Fayetteville

**Medium Company – Nonprofit:**

- Winrock International, Little Rock
- Little Rock National Airport (now Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport), Little Rock

**Large Company – Nonprofit:**

- City of Fayetteville

**Mature Worker Winners:**

- Liberty Bank of Arkansas, Jonesboro
- White County Medical Center, Searcy

Finalists for awards included:

**Small Company**

- Johnson Dermatology Clinic, Fort Smith
- Arkansas Power Electronics International Inc., Fayetteville
- The Harvest Group, Rogers

**Medium Company – Profit**

- AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, Little Rock
- Radiology Associates P.A., Little Rock
- CaseStack Inc., Fayetteville

**Large Company – Profit**

- Southwestern Energy Company, Conway

**Large Company – Nonprofit**

- White County Medical Center, Searcy

Partners in the initiative are Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Arkansas Business Publishing Group, Arkansas Child Care Resource and Referral Network, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Arkansas Department of Human Services/Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Arkansas Head Start Collaboration Office, DHS/Division of County Operations, Arkansas Department of Career Education, Arkansas Early Childhood Commission, Arkansas Society of Human Resource Managers, Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas, Arkansas State University, Arkansas Workforce Investment Board and Arkansas Department of Workforce Services.

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