

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AWB 2012 Better Workplace Awards Announced

State chamber honors seven Washington companies for safety, job training, benefit programs

OLYMPIA—The Association of Washington Business proudly honored seven private employers today for their commitment to workplace excellence, innovation and safety.

The association's Better Workplace Awards honor Washington companies that have set the bar for workplace safety, job training and advancement, and innovative benefit and compensation programs. All 7,800+ AWB member companies are eligible to submit nominations, which are reviewed by a panel of workplace benefits and safety experts.

[Davis Wright Tremaine LLP](#) sponsored the awards, presented Tuesday during AWB's annual [Legislative Day](#) at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia. Gov. Gregoire served as the event's keynote speaker, assisting AWB President Don Brunell and Davis Wright Tremaine's Tom Lemly in the presentation of the awards.

"I want to congratulate the recipients of this year's award and the Association of Washington Business for making the effort to recognize private employers who care deeply for the safety and success of their workers," said Gregoire. "I

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applaud the innovation demonstrated by today's recipients, an attribute that is essential to our economic recovery efforts here in the great state of Washington."

"As a general rule, a successful workplace tends to foster a successful business. AWB created the Better Workplace Awards in 1996 to honor private employers for all the steps they take to maintain a safe work environment, invest in their employees and reward people for their hard work," said Brunell. "We are fortunate to have these six companies as members of AWB, each of which serve as a model to other small, medium and large businesses in the state and the Pacific Northwest."

The recipients of the 2012 Better Workplace Awards include:

WORKPLACE SAFETY

Companies with 26-100 employees

- Ash Grove Cement Company, Seattle

Companies with 250+ employees

- Fluor Federal Services, Richland

JOB TRAINING/ADVANCEMENT

Companies with 26-100 employees

- Clark Nuber, Bellevue

Companies with 101-250 employees

- Sonderen Packaging, Spokane

INNOVATIVE BENEFITS/COMPENSATION

Companies with 26-100 employees

- Ryan, Bellevue

Companies with 26-100 employees

- Wheelabrator Spokane Inc., Spokane

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CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Companies with 26-100 employees

- SKILS'KIN, Spokane

[Read more online](#) about each of this year's Better Workplace Award winners and watch [video profiles](#) of each award-winning company. For photos of the 2012 awards presentation in Olympia, please visit the AWB's [Flickr Web site](#). (Note: photos and videos may not be available until late afternoon on Jan. 17.)

About the Association of Washington Business

Formed in 1904, the Association of Washington Business is Washington's oldest and largest statewide business association, and includes more than 7,800 members representing 650,000 employees. AWB serves as both the state's chamber of commerce and the manufacturing and technology association. While its membership includes major employers like Boeing, Microsoft and Weyerhaeuser, 90 percent of AWB members employ fewer than 100 people. More than half of AWB's members employ fewer than 10. For more about AWB, visit www.awb.org.