

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lisa Mercurio (203) 705-0683

The Business Council of Fairfield County Honors County-based Companies for Creating Healthy Workplaces

Stamford, Connecticut; February 1, 2012 - - The Business Council of Fairfield County will host our fourth Healthy Workplace Employer Recognition Program on Tuesday, February 14 at the Sheraton Stamford Hotel.

Our 2012 Healthy Workplace Employer Recognition Program will applaud the efforts of area employers who understand the competitive advantage of a healthy workforce and who have implemented cutting edge programs to promote a healthy workplace and assist their employees to live healthier lives.

From these programs we have learned that promoting health in the workplace doesn't have to be complicated or expensive, and that organizations – large and small – can make healthy foods available, promote smoking cessation programs, walking programs and disseminate health related information from a wide array of sources.

There are three categories of distinction, Platinum, Gold and Silver, awarded on the basis of program components and outcomes.

Those being recognized in the Platinum category include Daymon Worldwide, Inc. (Stamford); Town of Mansfield, CT/Mansfield Board of Education/Region 19 Board of Education and Eastern Highlands Health District; Nestlé Waters North America (Stamford); People's United Bank (Bridgeport); Pitney Bowes Inc. (Stamford); PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (Stamford/NY);

Purdue Pharma L.P. (Stamford); Sikorsky, A United Technologies Company (Stratford); Stew Leonard's (Norwalk) and Tauck Inc. (Norwalk)

Those being recognized in the Gold category include Ability Beyond Disability (Bethel); American Heart Association (Purchase, NY); Contractors Register (Jefferson Valley, NY); Deloitte (Stamford/NY); Hospital of Saint Raphael and Saint Raphael Health System (New Haven); R.C. Bigelow (Fairfield); Really Good Stuff (Monroe); Sacred Heart University (Fairfield); St. Vincent's Medical Center (Bridgeport); and the University of Hartford (West Hartford).

Those being recognized in the Silver category include 1-800-Flowers (Carle Place, NY); Connolly, Inc. (Wilton); Fairfield County Bank (Ridgefield); Neopost USA (Milford) ; Sectra, N.A.(Shelton); Stepping Stones Museum for Children (Norwalk) and XL America. (Stamford)

“Health is a business issue. As costs related to health and health care escalate business has responded in a variety of ways,” commented Tanya Court, Vice President, Public Policy, The Business Council of Fairfield County. “By recognizing the efforts of employers to promote healthy lifestyles, we hope to serve as a catalyst for other employers in both the private and public sector to take action.”

Corporate Wellness Programs in the Region

Research demonstrates that employers realize increased productivity and reduced direct healthcare costs when they offer health and wellness programs to their employees.

“We applaud the hard work and resourcefulness of these individuals as they have made wellness mission critical in their organizations. The real tipping point for any successful program is the ability to translate message into action and these employers have accomplished that and more,” commented Robert K. Janes, Jr., Director, New Sales, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. “Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is delighted to sponsor the Business Council's Healthy Workplace Employer Recognition and encourage more employers to follow their lead.”

To provide more insight into the honored programs, participants from Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, the Town of Mansfield, Stew Leonard's and Stepping Stones Museum for Children will share their best practices and recent experiences in a moderated conversation.

Presented by The Business Council's Wellness Roundtable, with the generous support of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, registration will begin at 7:45, and the breakfast program will be held from 8:00-9:30am. Registration is free for honored companies; \$25 for members of The Business Council and \$35 for non-members. To register, please contact The Business Council of Fairfield County at 203-359-3220.

About The Wellness Roundtable

The Healthy Workplace Employer Recognition Program is an initiative of The Business Council's Wellness Roundtable. Concentrating on the issues of health and wellness, The Wellness Roundtable is a vehicle for best practice exchange, conducts a communications and events program to raise awareness of wellness and serves as a catalyst for employers to take cooperative action in meeting the health-related needs of their employees.

About The Business Council of Fairfield County

Over the past decade, The Business Council of Fairfield County has emerged as a nationally respected and influential regional network of business leaders, committed to strengthening the economic vitality of our region and the performance of its member firms through research-based public policy initiatives, information services and network building programs. It was formed in 1970 by the merger of three existing organizations, the oldest of which had been founded in 1890. Today, The Business Council of Fairfield County is a private, not-for profit corporation governed by a volunteer board of senior executives and served by a professional staff. It has more than 300 corporate and non-profit institution members and 1100 professional affiliates.