

Chamber Members are Best Places to WORK



By Julie Scott

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce recently partnered with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), SC State Council and the publishers of *SC BIZ* magazine for the Best Places to Work in South Carolina program. The program is dedicated to identifying and recognizing the state's most innovative and top-notch employers.

Best Places to Work includes an invaluable 66-question employee survey conducted by an independent research company. This type of research would normally cost businesses much more if done on their own, making it a huge benefit of the program.

"South Carolina is home to some of the best places to work in the nation. We are proud to honor these innovative companies that are setting a great example as superb organizations for our state's workforce to prosper," said Otis Rawl, president and chief executive officer of the South Carolina Chamber.

2008 South Carolina Chamber Member Companies chosen Best Places to Work:

AGFIRST FARM CREDIT BANK

AgFirst Farm Credit Bank provides funding and financial services to 23 Agricultural Credit Associations (ACAs) in 15 eastern states and Puerto Rico. Visit www.agfirst.com.

ARBORONE FINANCIAL

In their first year applying for the Best Places to Work award, ArborOne's honor touted the company's strong employee policies and procedures. Visit www.arborone.com.

BUIST MOORE SMYTHE MCGEE PA

Buist Moore Smythe McGee PA is a strong advocate for corporations, partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability companies and other

business associations in all aspects of commercial activity. Visit <http://www.buistmoore.com>.

COLONIAL LIFE

Colonial Life, with more than 1,000 employees, is committed to helping workers understand and appreciate the benefits available to them and select benefits to protect their families. Visit www.coloniallife.com.

CYNERGI SYSTEMS LLC

Founded in 2002, Cynergi Systems is a full service progressive system integration and multimedia company. Visit www.cynergisystems.com.

DEVITA & ASSOCIATES INC.

DeVita & Associates Inc. provides a full range of professional engineering services including mechanical, electrical, plumbing and structural. Visit www.devitainc.com.

ELLIOTT DAVIS LLC

"By winning this prestigious award for the second year in a row, we know that our efforts to make Elliott Davis the workplace of choice are succeeding," said Bob Wilson, chief human resources officer for Elliott Davis. Visit www.elliottdavis.com.

ERWIN-PENLAND ADVERTISING

Erwin-Penland is a fully integrated marketing communications firm with homegrown interactive public relations, direct mail, event planning, advertising, strategic planning and media services. Visit www.erwinpenland.com.

FGP INTERNATIONAL INC.

DBA FIND GREAT PEOPLE

FGP International believes that they are a new kind of recruiting organization, geared to the hard new realities of an ever-changing, hyper-competitive global economy. Visit www.fgp.com.

FIRST COMMUNITY BANK

With 11 locations throughout central South Carolina, First Community Bank was founded in 1995 with an emphasis on the local community, a niche they have

since filled. Visit www.firstcommunitysc.com.

FIRST RELIANCE BANK

First Reliance Bank, founded in 1999, is ranked in the top 20 banks in South Carolina based on asset size and employs more than 145 associates. Visit www.firstreliance.com.

LIFE CYCLE ENGINEERING INC.

Life Cycle Engineering is a leading provider of maintenance and reliability solutions for government and private enterprise. Visit www.lce.com.

ROSENFELD EINSTEIN & ASSOCIATES INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

Rosenfeld Einstein (RE) represents a philosophy dedicated to RE-thinking, RE-inventing and RE-defining the world of insurance and financial planning. Visit www.rosenfeldeinstein.com.

SELECT HEALTH OF SOUTH CAROLINA INC.

"This award confirms that Select Health employees are positive about their work and their environment and is proof that all of our collective efforts truly do make this company a great place to work," said Human Resources Director Michelle Powell. Visit www.selecthealthofsc.com.

SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY

Founded in 1899, Sonoco is a global manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products and provider of services and solutions with locations in 35 countries. Visit www.sonoco.com.

SYNTERRA

SynTerra Corporation is an environmental and engineering consulting firm serving clients in the industry, government and commercial sectors. Visit www.synterracorp.com.

