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FEATURED

Local companies recognized as best family-friendly places to work

By Ike Wilson News-Post Staff

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The 2013 Frederick County Best Places to Work awards program was held Tuesday evening at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center. The winners are, from the left, Dr. Harvey Levy of Dr. Harvey Levy & Associates in the small business category; Kyle Yost of EN NET Services in the medium business category; Edie Druktenis, program manager of Clinical RM in the large business category; Michel Cyr, vice president and general manager for the Mid-Atlantic Division of CANAM in the major business category; and Ronald Volpe, president of Hood College in the employees' choice category. Staff photo by Sam Yu

Several local companies were applauded Tuesday as the best family-friendly places to work in Frederick County at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center. The annual awards are part of a county-wide partnership between business, government and the community dedicated to increasing quality of life opportunities for Frederick County employees.

Selection criteria included companies that promote an enhanced workplace culture; a strong professional development program; benefits and amenities to provide a work and life balance; encouragement of community and social responsibilities; and providing tools for healthy living.

These five family-friendly criteria and a review of each company's median annual salary and the organization's rate of voluntary turnover last year were evaluated and assigned points with a weighting scoring system.

In the last few years, the campaign added questions on business diversity practices and asked whether or not companies had policies and programs that promoted diversity in the workplace.

Winners

Dr. Harvey Levy & Associates won the Small Employer category for the company's \$100 monthly Most Valuable Player awards, no employee turnover in 2012 and pool parties, as well as company-sponsored trips.

En Net Services, with benefits such as flexible schedules, paid time off for volunteering, encouraging employee input on business decisions, as well as no turnover in 2012, got the Medium Employer award.

The Large Employer category with 51 to 200 employees went to Clinical Research Management. The company's benefits include telecommuting, retirement plans and charitable donations matching programs.

Canam Steel was the winner in the Major Employer category with 200 or more employees. The company offers on-site health clinics, profit sharing and tuition reimbursement.

This year's Employees' Choice Award went to Hood College — the company that had the most votes from its employees.

Hood College has a long tradition of excellence in Frederick, President Ronald Volpe said.

"We are delighted to receive this award. We have the best college students in America and great employees," Volpe said.

Being recognized as one of Frederick County's best places to work is rewarding for Canam Steel's management and employees, Vice President and General Manager Michel Cyr said.

The award attests to the company's efforts in fostering an atmosphere that makes for happy employees, Cyr said.

These awards were started to honor and recognize those Frederick County businesses that go above and beyond what it takes to attract and retain great employees, as great employees can make or break a business in today's economy, Frederick's Economic Development Director Richard Griffin said.

Frederick Mayor Randy McClement said he was pleased to learn that four of the five winners are located in Frederick, and Frederick County Board of County Commissioners President Blaine Young said local government officials are working to ensure the county is the best place for business to thrive.

"Frederick County has a lot of great employers, and with a 6 percent unemployment rate, many other jurisdictions can't say that," Young said. "But the main thing is to treat your employees right and turnover will be low."

The Family Friendly Business/Best Places to Work Campaign started in 2002 by the Frederick County Office for Children and Families. The campaign began as a business, government and community partnership dedicated to increasing the number of children who receive quality supervision in early childhood.

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