

Press Release

Area business named one of the Best Places to Work in PA 2007

Wilkes-Barre, Pa (November 28, 2007) -- Sundance Vacations is the best company to work for in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The company finished eighth in the statewide employee poll for large-sized companies (251 or more employees), but ranked highest among area companies. The announcement was made during the Best Places to Work in PA dinner held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, Pa on November 27th, 2007.

The awards program, created in 2000, is one of the first of its kind offered by a state in the country. The program is a public/private partnership of Team Pennsylvania Foundation, the Chamber of Business and Industry, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and the Central Penn Business Journal.

The statewide survey and awards program is designed to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment in Pennsylvania, benefiting the state's economy, its workforce and businesses. The Best Places to Work in PA list is comprised of 100 companies split into two groups: 50 medium-sized companies (25-250 employees) and 50 large-sized companies (251 or more employees).

To be considered for participation, companies had to fulfill the following eligibility requirements:

- Have at least 25 employees in Pennsylvania;
- Be a for-profit or not-for-profit business;
- Be a publicly or privately held business;
- Have a facility in Pennsylvania; and
- Be in good standing with Commonwealth agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction.

Companies from across the state entered the two-part process to determine the 100 Best Places to Work in PA. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated company's workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics. This part of the process was worth approximately 24% of the total evaluation. The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience. Nearly 20,000 Pennsylvania employees filled out the survey. The combined scores determined the top companies final ranking.

"It's the employees who make this award so honorable," explained Dave Schankweiler, publisher of the Central Penn Business Journal and Emcee of the awards presentation. The attendance at the dinner topped 1,000 people from 100 companies throughout Pennsylvania.

Some of the program sponsors include Team Pennsylvania Foundation, the Central Penn Business Journal, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, Duquesne University, Sovereign Bank, and JPL Productions.

“This is a testament to our belief that if you take care of your employees, they’ll take care of your customers and the bottom line will take care of itself,” stated Sundance President John Dowd. Headquartered in Wilkes-Barre, PA, Sundance Vacations maintains six sales offices on the east coast and in the Midwest and five marketing offices in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Sundance provides employment for 350 employees in NEPA. “It was a great night for Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania’s workers,” said John P. Blake Executive Secretary, PA Department of Community and Economic Development.

Sundance Vacations is a travel company that specializes in wholesale vacation accommodations in popular resort areas. The company is founded on the philosophy of providing travelers exciting condominium style vacations at a fraction of today's retail rates. John Dowd made the decision to participate in the 100 Best Places to Work awards program. Communications Director, Kathy O’Mara, coordinated the application and surveying process for the 350 Pennsylvania employees.