



**SHRM Kicks Off Sixth Annual “Best Places to Work in Maine”  
Project Offers Resources for Employers to Retain and Attract Top Talent**

Portland, ME—February 17 2011— The Maine State Council of the Society for Human Resources Management is looking to honor companies that have established and consistently fostered outstanding workplace environments. It is the "Best Places to Work in Maine" awards program, now in its sixth year. The event is endorsed by, Best Companies Group, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, *Employment Times*, *HR Times* and *Mainebiz*.

“The Maine program has grown significantly each year since its inception in 2005,” said Kristine Avery, Director of the SHRM Maine State Council. “I think the success of the Best Places to Work program is a true testament to Maine businesses understanding that they must retain and recruit top talent to be successful.”

In June, Best Companies Group will survey all the Maine companies that have registered online by the deadline of May 27. The scientifically validated survey will incorporate a company’s employee benefits and policies and responses from a comprehensive employee engagement and satisfaction survey. The data collected from the assessment will be used to determine the Best Places to Work in Maine.

“Businesses are the backbone of the Maine economy,” said Governor Paul LePage. “The ‘Best Places to Work’ project gives employers the opportunity to highlight the best of the best. There are many great companies, big and small, in our state and I encourage people to take part in this program.”

First place winners of the fifth annual “Best Places to Work in Maine” program in 2010 included Unum, based in Portland, in large size company category and Kennebec Savings Bank in Augusta in the small/medium size company category.

Mary Hammond, Vice President and Human Resources Officer at Kennebec Savings had this to say about the program: “At Kennebec Savings Bank, employee retention is everything because our employees are everything. We feel strongly that if we treat them well, not only will they treat us well, they will treat our customers and each other well, too. Participating in the Best Places to Work in Maine has been a great ‘pulse check’ on that point. The valuable information in the reports helps us to affirm what we are doing right to keep our employees happy and where we have opportunities for growth.”

The Best Companies Group employee feedback report is presented to each participating company, whether or not they made the list. The report includes the summarized employee engagement and satisfaction data, the Maine benchmark report, and the transcript of employee written comments. Many companies use the report to make significant improvements in their workplace culture.

Any company with at least 15 employees in the state of Maine is encouraged to participate. Companies selected as a “Best Place to Work in Maine” will be announced at a gala event in the fall of 2011. A complete list of top companies will be featured in a statewide publication put out by *Mainebiz*. There is a fee to participate in the Best Places to Work in Maine program that helps cover administrative costs and the production of the employee feedback report.

Interested companies can apply to participate in the program online at [www.bestplacestoworkme.com](http://www.bestplacestoworkme.com). The deadline for registration is May 27, 2011, and all registered companies will be surveyed simultaneously following the deadline date.

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