

business trends

The Ten Best Companies For Financial Security

(NAPSA)—In a shaky economy, some businesses stand out for their unwavering commitment to helping secure their employees' financial futures.

Some of these companies were recently honored by The Principal Financial Group for their excellence in selecting, managing and providing well-rounded employee and financial benefits programs.

The Principal Financial Group (NYSE:PFG) searched nationwide for growing companies (five to 1,000 employees) that excel at providing benefits that contribute to employees' sense of financial security. The Principal 10 Best Companies for Employee Financial Security recognizes 10 businesses that go above and beyond offering traditional benefits programs.

Whether through a competitive 401(k) plan or a complete medical package, American workers are relying more on their employers to help provide for their long-term financial futures, says Carey Jury, vice president at The Principal Financial Group.

"Companies that can select, manage and provide well-rounded benefit programs will excel in recruiting, retaining and motivating their employees," said Jury. "A good benefits program will foster employee satisfaction and reassure employees that their financial security is important to the company. The winning companies know that their most important asset is their people."

Winning companies include:

- Advanced Financial Solutions, Inc. (AFS) (Oklahoma City); Applied Technology and Management, Inc. (ATM) (Gainesville, Fla.); Calence, Inc. (Tempe, Ariz.); ECS, Inc. (Davenport, Iowa); FGM, Inc. (Dulles, Va.); MARC USA, Inc. (Pittsburgh); Metropolitan Mortgage & Securities Co., Inc. (Spokane, Wash.); Nordic Construction Ltd. (Waipahu, Hawaii); PRE Holding, Inc. (Midlothian, Va.); and Tiller Corporation (Maple Grove, Minn.).

Winners were chosen by a panel of business leaders and ben-



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efit experts working with the Saratoga Institute, a global leader in human capital benchmarkings.

After carefully reviewing more than 100 benefit options, the judges noted that certain benefits contribute directly to long-term financial security.

These include: retirement packages with more than one plan; strong medical coverage, including significant premium subsidies by employers; long-term care and disability options; group life insurance; accidental death and dismemberment coverage; and effective communication methods to help employees maximize the benefit options.

For more information, visit www.principal.com. Entry forms for the 2002-2003 recognition program will be available by visiting The Principal Web site.

The Principal Financial Group (The Principal) is the nation's 401(k) leader, providing more services for more 401(k) plans than any other mutual fund, bank or insurance company. For more information, call 515/283-8858.

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