

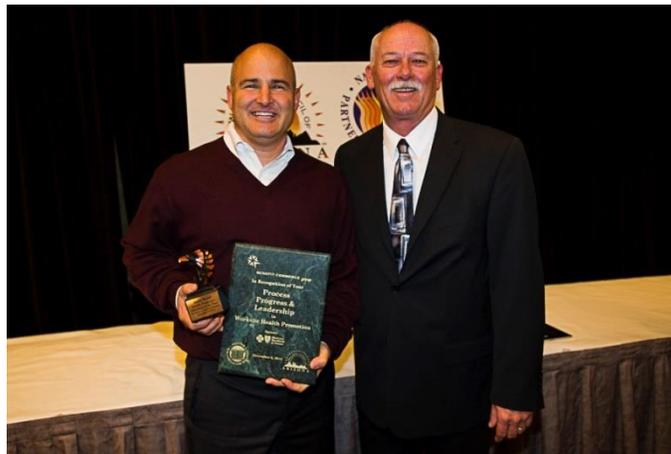


BENEFIT COMMERCE *group*

NEWS RELEASE

Benefit Commerce Group and Its Clients Receive 18 Awards from Wellness Council of Arizona

Scott Wood Named 'Health Promotion Advocate of the Year'



***Scott Wood, Principal of Benefit Commerce Group, receives awards from
Dan Johnson, Executive Director of the Wellness Council of Arizona***

Scottsdale, AZ, December 9, 2013 – Benefit Commerce Group, a Scottsdale-based innovative employee benefits consulting firm, and its clients received 18 awards presented on December 6 by the Wellness Council of Arizona at its 28th Annual Meeting & Awards event.

The Wellness Council annually recognizes organizations and individuals statewide who have promoted worksite wellness and have achieved notable results and progress through their programs. The Wellness Council of Arizona is the leading health promotion organization in Arizona, coordinating wellness programs for over 200,000 Arizona employees.

Health Promotion Advocate of the Year

In addition to these awards, the Wellness Council presented the “Health Promotion Advocate of the Year” award to Scott Wood, Principal of Benefit Commerce Group.

“Our firm has been a leader and champion of workplace wellness since we formed this group,” said Wood. “Wellness is an important part of our philosophy and strategy for our clients. I also must recognize the extraordinary leadership and inspirational impact of Dan Johnson, Executive Director of the Wellness Council of Arizona. We have worked closely with Dan on many programs, and I can say without hesitation that he is the embodiment of the Council’s slogan: ‘Strength, Energy & Vitality!’ At Benefit Commerce Group, we are indebted to Dan for his guidance and enthusiasm.”

Wellness as Long-Term Strategy to Achieve Cost Savings

“We incorporate wellness programs and employee awareness of wellness into the long-term employee benefit strategies we develop for our clients,” Wood added. “In addition to it being the ‘right thing to do’ for a company’s employees, it makes good business sense. A healthy workforce is a more productive and more reliable workforce—and that adds to an employer’s ability to attract and retain customers and quality employees.”

Employee wellness also can add to the bottom line. “Healthcare costs are the second or third highest budget expense for most employers,” said Chris Hogan, President of Benefit Commerce Group. “By utilizing wellness programs, engaging employees and aligning wellness with other corporate business and employee benefit strategies, our clients are saving significant amounts of money. Even mid-sized companies can save hundreds of thousands or into millions of dollars by focusing on improving the health of their employees. And, with Healthcare Reform adding fees and taxes onto healthcare costs, it has never been more important to promote wellness.”

Organization & Individual Awards

Benefit Commerce Group clients were recognized in all categories of the awards program of the Wellness Council of Arizona:

Organization: Process, Progress & Leadership in Worksite Wellness Promotion

- Estenson Logistics, Mesa
- Naumann/Hobbs Material Handling, Phoenix
- Mountain Health & Wellness, Apache Junction
- The Country Club at DC Ranch, Scottsdale
- Daisy Mountain Fire District, Phoenix
- Benefit Commerce Group, Scottsdale

Individual: Senior Management Champion Who Supports the Wellness Program

- Able Engineering, Mesa: Gregg Leach—CFO
- Naumann/Hobbs Material Handling: Keith Sawottke—CFO
- The Country Club at DC Ranch: Paul Skelton, General Manager/COO
- Suntec Concrete, Phoenix: David Chavez, VP

Individual: Wellness Committee Member Who Goes the Extra Mile

- Mountain Health & Wellness: Gustavo McGrew, Senior Director of Wellness Services
- Able Engineering: (2-person team): P.J. Rovinelli, Jr., Director of Performance & Wellness, and Mike Austin, Performance Coach/Nutrition Specialist
- The Country Club at DC Ranch: Joy Niemann, Human Resources Manager
- Daisy Mountain Fire District: Dennis A. Tyrrell, II, Division Chief/HR
- Buffalo Exchange, Tucson: (2-person team) Jennifer Forster, HR Director, and Aryn Lambson, Benefits Manager

Individual: Employee Who Has Made Great Improvements in Lifestyle and Health

- Able Engineering: Ramon Portuanto, Inventory Control Agent
- Suntec Concrete: Mario Salcido, Safety Manager

This recognition follows many other national and regional awards won by Benefit Commerce Group and its clients during the past several years. Benefit Commerce Group executives received national recognition for two years in a row from The Institute for HealthCare Consumerism. Four clients of Benefit Commerce Group were awarded Healthiest Employers Awards in 2013 by the *Phoenix Business Journal*. Benefit Commerce Group and three of its clients were awarded honors in 2012 by the Wellness Council of Arizona.

ABOUT Benefit Commerce Group

Benefit Commerce Group, the creator of its exclusive **Trend Neutralizer™**, is an innovative and award-winning employee benefits consulting firm that is changing the health care cost paradigm, one company at a time. We provide employers with sustainable strategies to lower health care costs first-year and long-term and enhance productivity. Benefit Commerce is a “game-changer” for companies striving to control one of their highest expense items: employee benefits costs. We are not your typical benefits firm, and we are not offering typical cost-shifting techniques. Our strategies yield real savings for both employer and employee and also integrate meaningful consumer-focused employee health and wellness programs. Our technology enhancements also set us apart, as we offer methods to streamline HR functions from enrollment through ongoing employee communication and administration. Principals of the firm include Scott Wood, Johnny Angelone and Chris Hogan. For more information on Benefit Commerce Group, visit our website www.benefitcommerce.com.

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