



West Bend Mutual Insurance Honored with National Workplace Award for Fourth Straight Year

WEST BEND, WI (October 25, 2013) – For the fourth year in a row, *Business Insurance* magazine and the Best Companies Group have named West Bend Mutual Insurance Company one of the nation’s top places to work in the large property/casualty insurer category. West Bend was one of 65 companies nationally recognized in the 2013 *Best Places to Work in Insurance* program.

Most of the Workplace Award evaluation – 75% – is based on confidential employee surveys. The remaining 25% is based on the company’s workplace policies, practices, and demographics.

“At West Bend, our vision is to be the company of choice for our policyholders, agents, and associates,” said Kevin Steiner, president and CEO. “This top workplace award is strong evidence that our associates see West Bend as their company of choice. We believe our positive and motivating work environment helps our 1,100 associates deliver outstanding service to our agents and policyholders, which helps make West Bend their company of choice, too.”

West Bend offers their associates many amenities, including continuing education courses held in a state-of-the-art training facility; an on-site bank; dry cleaning services; a 7,100-square-foot fitness center; a variety of fitness classes; three miles of walking trails; on-site massage therapist; and wellness programs that include health risk assessments.

West Bend associates say they like being part of a company with community and environmental priorities. West Bend actively supports dozens of not-for-profit organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, United Way, and The MACC Fund. Care for the environment is promoted with gardens for associates to grow their own organic produce, reduction of paper use, elimination of plastic wear and Styrofoam in the on-site cafeteria, and the preservation of 160 acres of prairie on their campus. These are just a few of the company’s sustainability initiatives.

Founded in 1894, West Bend employs 1,100 people; offers home, auto, and business insurance in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, and Nebraska; and has grown to more than \$1.5 billion in assets. It is represented by 1,250 independent insurance agencies.

The national awards program is designed to identify, recognize, and honor the best places of employment in the commercial insurance industry, benefiting the industry’s economy, its workforce, and businesses. Companies participating in the program are property/casualty insurers, group life/health insurers, reinsurers, third-party administrators, and agents/brokers.