



West Bend Mutual Insurance Wins National Workplace Award for Third Straight Year

WEST BEND, WI (October 30, 2012) – For the third straight year, Business Insurance magazine and the Best Companies Group have named West Bend Mutual Insurance Company the nation’s top place to work in the large property/casualty insurer category. West Bend was one of 50 companies nationally recognized in the 2012 Best Places to Work in Insurance program.

“It’s such an honor to receive this award three years in a row,” said Kevin Steiner, West Bend president and CEO. “Since 75% of the Workplace Award evaluation was based on confidential employee surveys, this recognition is strong evidence that our associates value what we offer and make us the company of choice. I’m proud of all we’ve accomplished, and am especially proud of our 1000-plus associates and their great work.”

The remaining 25% of the evaluation was based on the company’s workplace policies, practices, and demographics.

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; three miles of walking trails; 20 different fitness classes; on-site massage therapist; wellness programs that include health risk assessments; and Take Your Child to Work Day.

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 through reduction of paper use, elimination of plastic wear and Styrofoam in the on-site cafeteria, maintenance of a fresh water tower on site which saves 250,000 gallons of water a year, and the preservation of 160 acres of prairie land on their campus. These are just a few of the company’s sustainability initiatives.

Founded in 1894, West Bend employs more than 1,000 people; serves personal and commercial insurance needs 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.