

115 West Washington • Suite 850S • Indianapolis, IN 46204-3407 • (317) 264-3110 • (800) 824-6897

Media contacts: **Rebecca Patrick** (317) 264-6897 or (317) 919-6458 / [rpatrick@indianachamber.com](mailto:rpatrick@indianachamber.com)

**Tom Schuman** (317) 264-3792 or (317) 919-6468 / [tschuman@indianachamber.com](mailto:tschuman@indianachamber.com)

**Candace Gwaltney** (317) 264-7453 / [cgwaltney@indianachamber.com](mailto:cgwaltney@indianachamber.com)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Third Annual "Best Places to Work in Indiana" Rankings Announced at Indiana Chamber Awards Dinner**

**May 7, 2008 (INDIANAPOLIS)** : In a repeat performance, investment giant Edward Jones and Schmidt Associates, a full-service architectural firm in downtown Indianapolis, took top honors tonight in the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's third annual "Best Places to Work in Indiana" program. This marks the third time Edward Jones — with 356 branch offices in the state — has finished number one among the large employers, while Schmidt Associates has garnered first place both times its entered the small to medium-sized employer category.

The Indiana Chamber announced rankings for all 66 companies that made the Best Places to Work in Indiana list at an awards dinner at the Indiana Roof Ballroom attended by 800 Hoosier businesspeople. Names of companies on the list had been released February 25. The 2008 program was presented by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

The honorees were determined through employer reports and comprehensive employee surveys, with winners selected in two categories: small to medium-sized companies of between 25 and 249 employees, and large-sized companies consisting of 250 or more employees. Out-of-state parent companies were eligible to participate if at least 25 full-time employees are in Indiana.

The Best Companies Group has overseen similar programs in 18 other states. ModernThink, LLC, a workplace excellence consulting firm, handled the selection process. The basis for this initiative is *Fortune* magazine's noted "100 Best Places to Work for" list.

"Three factors stand out as to why Edward Jones and Schmidt Associates top the list," states Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar. "Both are devout in their philosophy and make sure employees are onboard with it. They are also modern in their culture through open communication, making time for fun and encouraging teamwork. And, they foster opportunities for their employees to grow as professionals."

All companies making the list, Brinegar emphasizes, understand how important it is for the success of a business to make employees feel valued. "Each should be very proud of the positive environment they have created."

More information about the Best Places to Work companies is available via a special section of the May/June issue of the Indiana Chamber's *BizVoice* magazine, a statewide publication released tonight and accessible online at [www.bizvoicemagazine.com](http://www.bizvoicemagazine.com).

At the dinner, representatives from all designated companies were presented with Best Place to Work awards of excellence. In addition to the *BizVoice* magazine feature, honorees were also recognized through the statewide media resources of *Inside Indiana Business with Gerry Dick*. Other program partners are the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, the Indiana State SHRM Council and the Indiana Youth Institute.

All companies that participated in the 2008 Best Places to Work program receive an in-depth evaluation identifying strengths and weaknesses according to their employees. In turn, this report can be used in developing or enhancing employee retention and recruitment programs. For more information on the Indiana Chamberis Best Places to Work program, go to [www.bestplacestoworkIN.com](http://www.bestplacestoworkIN.com). You can sign up to be notified by e-mail when application details for the fourth annual competition are announced this summer.

Companies ranked in all three years of the Best Places to Work in Indiana program: Ash Brokerage Corporation (Fort Wayne), Bowen Engineering Corporation (Fishers), Columbus Regional Hospital, Cripe Architects + Engineers (Indianapolis), Crowe Chizek and Company LLC (Indianapolis), Duke Realty (Indianapolis), Edward Jones (statewide), Emmis Communications (Indianapolis), Fort Wayne Metals, G & S Research (Indianapolis), Goshen Health System, Katz, Sapper & Miller (Indianapolis), KPMG LLP (Indianapolis), Morales Group (Indianapolis), Safety Management Group (Indianapolis), Somerset CPAs (Indianapolis), Sommer Barnard (Indianapolis), T2 Systems (Indianapolis) and VMS (Indianapolis).

Program sponsors for 2008, in addition to Anthem, are Baker & Daniels, Ball State University, First Merchants Corporation, French Lick Resort Casino, Hill-Rom, Professional Staff Management, Roche Diagnostics, Simon Property Group and FedEx.

**The full list of the 2008 Best Places to Work in Indiana companies by ranking:**

**Small to Medium-sized Companies (25-249 employees)**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Primary Indiana Location</b>
1	Schmidt Associates	Indianapolis
2	ANGEL Learning, Inc.	Indianapolis
3	VMS	Indianapolis
4	TLS.NET, Inc.	Columbus
5	Gregory & Appel Insurance	Indianapolis
6	Sommer Barnard PC*	Indianapolis
7	The Heavyweights, Inc.	Indianapolis
8	Bowen Engineering Corporation	Fishers
9	Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau	Hammond
10	The Estridge Companies	Carmel
11	WestPoint Financial Group	Indianapolis
12	Bamberger, Foreman, Oswald and Hahn, LLP	Evansville
13	Katz, Sapper & Miller	Indianapolis
14	Morales Group, Inc	Indianapolis
15	Network Solutions, Inc.	Granger
16	Cripe Architects + Engineers	Indianapolis
17	eTapestry	Greenfield
18	Somerset CPAs	Indianapolis
19	Employment Plus	Bloomington
20	Jackson Systems, LLC	Indianapolis
21	Ash Brokerage Corporation	Fort Wayne
22	Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, PC	Indianapolis
23	Safety Management Group	Indianapolis
24	RW Armstrong	Indianapolis
25	Heartland Community Bank	Franklin
26	Matrix Integration, LLC	Jasper
27	AIT Laboratories	Indianapolis
28	United Consulting	Indianapolis

\* New name of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP as of May 1

29	Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company	Fort Wayne
30	Elwood Staffing	Columbus
31	Double-Take Software	Indianapolis
32	Keystone Group, LLC	Indianapolis
33	Krieg DeVault LLP	Indianapolis
34	Indiana Organ Procurement Organization	Indianapolis
35	ExactTarget, Inc.	Indianapolis
36	KPMG LLP	Indianapolis
37	Colliers Turley Martin Tucker	Indianapolis
38	T2 Systems, Inc.	Indianapolis
39	Fusion Alliance	Indianapolis
40	Aprimo, Inc.	Indianapolis
40	G & S Research, Inc.	Indianapolis

**Large Companies (250 or more employees)**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Primary Indiana Location</b>
1	Edward Jones	Statewide
2	The Capital Group Companies, Inc.	Indianapolis
3	Shiel Sexton Company, Inc.	Indianapolis
4	Columbus Regional Hospital	Columbus
5	Centier Bank	Crown Point
6	Interactive Intelligence, Inc.	Indianapolis
7	Ernst & Young, LLP	Indianapolis
8	Clark Memorial Hospital	Jeffersonville
9	BSA LifeStructures	Indianapolis
10	St. Joseph Hospital	Kokomo
11	Duke Realty Corporation	Indianapolis
12	Bingham McHale LLP	Indianapolis
13	Fort Wayne Metals Research	Fort Wayne
14	Crowe Chizek and Company LLC	Indianapolis
15	Baker & Daniels LLP	Indianapolis
16	Goshen Health System	Goshen
17	Emmis Communications	Indianapolis
18	Indiana Business College	Indianapolis
19	Clarian West Medical Center	Avon
20	Bose McKinney & Evans LLP	Indianapolis
21	La Porte Regional Health System	LaPorte
22	FORUM Credit Union	Indianapolis
23	Monarch Beverage Company, Inc.	Indianapolis
24	Cintas	Carmel
25	Angie's List	Indianapolis

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**The Indiana Chamber of Commerce has been the state's largest broad-based business advocacy organization for over 85 years. Today, it serves more than 26,000 members and customers.**