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Savannah winners of national business excellence awards announced
Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence showcase companies seeking new ways to make work “work” in today’s economy

SAVANNAH— Hancock Askew & Co., LLP and Wesley Community Centers of Savannah Inc. are Savannah’s winners of the 2009 Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.

The Sloan Awards for Business Excellence recognize organizations that are striving to find new ways to make work “work” in today’s difficult economy. The awards honor organizations of all sizes and types in 30 communities across the nation that are using workplace flexibility as a strategy to increase workplace effectiveness and yield positive business results.

Step Up Savannah and the national partners of “When Work Works”—Families and Work Institute, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Institute for a Competitive Workforce, and the Twiga Foundation—cooperated this year to promote the prestigious national awards in the Savannah area. The awards will be presented to the local companies by Step Up Savannah, Inc. at its annual meeting on October 20.

The award means that Hancock Askew & Co. LLP and Wesley Community Centers of Savannah, Inc. rank in the top 20 percent of employers from around the country in terms of flexible work programs, policies and culture. The organizations were evaluated in a rigorous two-step process, first comparing their applications to national data from the Families and Work Institute’s “National Study of Employers,” and then corroborating the employers’ responses through an employee survey.

"It is an honor to win the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Excellence in the Workplace," said Harry Haslam, managing partner of Hancock Askew.

"As a firm we continuously focus on employees' needs for workplace flexibility and oblige them, blending them with the firm's needs . We began a concerted effort to make our workplace more flexible 15 years ago and our current programs are an evolution of this process. Our greatest assets are our people. Without them, we do not exist as an entity."

Tammy Mixon, executive director of Wesley Community Centers, commented on her organization winning, “We are thrilled and honored to receive the Alfred P. Sloan Award as a small non-profit.

“We take pride in focusing on the workplace and caring for our employees so they may care for our customers. We actively build flexibility into our workplace so that our people can pursue their education improving their credentials, and attend classes during the work day. This benefits our customers and our employees,” Ms. Mixon said.

Each of the 2009 Sloan Award winners also will be recognized nationally and featured in next year’s edition of the “Guide to Bold New Ideas for Making Work Work,” published by Families and Work Institute.

Hancock Askew and Wesley Community Centers will be honored by Savannah’s local award administrator, Step Up Savannah, at its annual meeting on October 20, which starts at 7:30 a.m., at the Civic Center. Step Up administered the national award locally this year, and contributed questions focusing on lower wage workers to the national Alfred P. Sloan application.

For more information about *When Work Works* or the Alfred P. Sloan Awards, please contact Tyler Wigton at (212) 465-2044 x 224 or twigton@familiesandwork.org Kelly Sakai at (212) 465-2044 x 211 and at ksakai@familiesandwork.org.

For more information about Step Up Savannah’s annual meeting, contact Suzanne Donovan at (912) 232-6747 or sdonovan@stepupsavannah.org.