



For Immediate Release

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USF's National Center for Transit Research Selects Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Winners
Awards recognize companies who offer highest level of commuter benefits

TAMPA, Fla. (Jan. 26, 2012) – Best Workplaces for CommutersSM, a program designed to encourage sustainable transportation innovation singled out 15 employers nationwide on Thursday, January 26 during the annual “*Race to Excellence*” Virtual Awards Ceremony. The awards recognize organizations who have taken exemplary steps to offer transportation options such as vanpool and transit benefits or telework and compressed workweek for their employees.

“The annual Race to Excellence provides national recognition for employers who offer high level commuter benefits,” said Julie Bond, NCTR’s national program manager for Best Workplaces for Commuters. “Offering commuter benefits is a win-win situation for both employees and employers. Employees change their commuting habits, save time, money and stress while employers gain a competitive edge in employee recruitment and retention.”

Best Workplaces for Commuters provides qualified employers with programs and services along with national recognition and an elite designation for offering outstanding commuter benefits, such as free or low cost bus passes. Employers that meet the National Standard of Excellence in commuter benefits – a standard established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and maintained by the National Center for Transit Research (NCTR)– can become a member of Best Workplaces for Commuters (<http://www.bestworkplaces.org>).

And the winners are:

- **“Best Of”**
 - Stanford University (Stanford, CA)
- **Gold Employer**
 - Bishop Ranch Transportation Association (San Ramon, CA)
 - Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN)
 - State of Arizona (Phoenix, AZ)
 - Tindale-Oliver & Associates (Tampa, FL)
 - GVF (King of Prussia, PA)
- **Gold University**
 - Stanford University (Stanford, CA)
 - University of California, Irvine
 - University of California, San Francisco

- University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- University of South Florida (Tampa, FL)
- Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, VA)
- **Silver Employer**
 - BLiNQ Media (New York, NY)
 - Booz Allen Hamilton (McLean, VA)
 - Central Arizona Project (Phoenix, AZ)
 - Suburban Transit Network, Inc (Blue Bell, PA)

Best Workplaces for Commuter™ is a program of the National Center for Transit Research at the University of South Florida. NCTR is funded by Florida Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Transportation. The theme of NCTR is to make public transportation and alternative forms of transportation, including managed lanes, safe, effective, efficient, desirable, and secure.

The University of South Florida is one of the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of only 25 public research universities nationwide with very high research activity that is designated as community engaged by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. USF was awarded \$394.1 million in research contracts and grants in FY 2009/2010. The university offers 232 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, specialist and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine. The USF System has a \$1.8 billion annual budget, an annual economic impact of \$3.2 billion, and serves more than 47,000 students on institutions/campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland. USF is a member of the Big East Athletic Conference.

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