



ASTD BEST Awards Gold Sponsor

A Passion for Learning

What makes these 40 BEST Award winners the cream of the crop in workplace learning and performance?

It's not just about creating one superior training program or getting satisfied employees to perform at peak efficiency. BEST winners are best at Building talent, Enterprisewide, Supported by the organization's leaders, fostering a Thorough learning culture.

These winners, the best of the best, linked learning to business strategies, created a culture that encourages and instills learning across all levels of the organization, and developed learning initiatives that promote teamwork, leadership, and growth.

From BB&T, who created a culture in which learning is everyone's responsibility, to WakeMed Health & Hospitals' goal of promoting from within, the 2008 BEST Award winners all have one thing in common: a passion for learning and a desire to give all employees the tools, techniques, and knowledge to succeed in the workplace.

All organizations featured, from the company with 300 employees to the largest with more than 425,000, faced unique challenges. It was how they handled those challenges while changing the culture of learning within their companies that put them in an elite category.

In the pages that follow, you will read about the Top 40 BEST companies for 2008—a group of stellar performers who shine above all the rest. Organizations who are consecutive-year winners are recognized with a number beside the company name indicating the total years they have been BEST Award recipients.

Profiles were written by Paul Harris, Jennifer Salopek, Ann Pace, Aparna Nancharla, Michael Laff, Juana Llorens, and Paula Ketter.



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2008 Best Awards

Winner Rankings

Rank	Organization	Corporate Headquarters	Number of Employees	Industry	Page
1	Janus Capital Group	Denver, Colorado	1,078	Financial services	30
2	BB&T	Winston-Salem, North Carolina	28,900	Financial services	50
3	American Infrastructure	Worcester, Pennsylvania	1,746	Construction	66
4	LQ Management LLC	Irving, Texas	10,031	Hospitality	76
5	OhioHealth	Columbus, Ohio	11,858	Healthcare	82
6	Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals	Columbia, South Carolina	1,344	Healthcare	62
7	Perkins+Will	Chicago, Illinois	1,550	Professional services	83
8	Robert W. Baird & Co.	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	2,170	Financial services	88
9	Scottrade	St. Louis, Missouri	1,877	Financial services	84
10	WakeMed Health & Hospitals	Raleigh, North Carolina	5,960	Healthcare	89
11	Constellation Energy	Baltimore, Maryland	10,700	Energy	34
12	Datatel	Fairfax, Virginia	560	Information technology and consulting	75
13	Reliance Industries Limited - Nagothane Manufacturing Division	Nagothane, Maharashtra, India	2,157	Manufacturing	78
14	Air Products	Allentown, Pennsylvania	22,100	Manufacturing	71
15	CheckFree (now a part of Fiserv)	Norcross, Georgia	3,500	Financial e-commerce services	72
16	CSC	Falls Church, Virginia	90,000	Information technology services	73
17	The Schwan Food Company	Marshall, Minnesota	21,150	Food services	84
18	Infosys Technologies Limited	Bangalore, India	79,016	Information technology	81
19	Carter & Burgess	Fort Worth, Texas	3,118	Architecture and engineering	54
20	Farmers Insurance Exchange	Agoura Hills, California	12,000	Finance and insurance	74
21	UPS	Atlanta, Georgia	427,700	Transportation	85
22	B&W Pantex	Amarillo, Texas	3,500	Manufacturing	71
23	Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts	Hong Kong SAR, China	35,000	Hospitality	58
24	Toshiba America Business Solutions	Irvine, California	3,500	Retail	80
25	T. Rowe Price	Baltimore, Maryland	5,020	Financial services	42
26	Grant Thornton LLP	Chicago, Illinois	5,697	Professional services	79
27	UT-Battelle Oak Ridge National Laboratory	Oak Ridge, Tennessee	4,383	Research and development	87
28	ETS	Princeton, New Jersey	2,700	Educational services	38
29	Wipro Limited	Bangalore, India	60,000	Information technology	89
30	CIGNA Corporation	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	26,600	Healthcare	72
31	ICICI Bank Limited	Mumbai, India	40,880	Financial services	79
32	Sun Microsystems	Menlo Park, California	34,219	Computer manufacturing	46
33	IKON Office Solutions	Malvern, Pennsylvania	25,000	Wholesale electronics and office equipment	70
34	Gables Residential	Atlanta, Georgia	1,268	Real estate property management	77
35	Marvin Windows and Doors of Tennessee	Warroad, Minnesota	675	Manufacturing	82
36	North Mississippi Health Services	Tupelo, Mississippi	5,338	Healthcare	82
37	FORUM Credit Union	Fishers, Indiana	300	Financial services	74
38	Clarkston Consulting	Durham, North Carolina	325	Professional services	73
39	Wachovia	Charlotte, North Carolina	120,000	Financial services	87
40	AlliedBarton Security Services	Conshohocken, Pennsylvania	46,881	Security services	71

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