



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Virginia 529 Named to 2012 Best Places to Work in Virginia List

Virginia 529 – the Virginia College Savings Plan – which sponsors the Commonwealth’s four tax-advantaged 529 college savings programs, recently was named one of the 2012 *Best Places to Work in Virginia*. The annual list of “Best Places to Work” was created by *Virginia Business* and Best Companies Group. Virginia 529 was the ONLY government agency, in any category, to be recognized on the list in 2012.

This survey and award program was designed to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment in Virginia, benefiting the state’s economy, its work force and businesses. The *Best Places to Work in Virginia* list is made up of a total of 70 companies, split into three groups: small employers (fewer than 100 employees) mid-sized employers (100-250 employees), and large-sized employers (more than 250 employees). Virginia 529 was recognized in the “small employer” category.

To be considered for participation, companies had to fulfill the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a for-profit or not-for-profit business or government entity;
- Be a publicly or privately held business;
- Have a facility in the state of Virginia;
- Have at least 15 employees working in Virginia;
- Be in business a minimum of 1 year.

Organizations from across the state entered the two-part survey process to determine the *Best Places to Work in Virginia*. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated company’s workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics. The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience. The combined scores determined the top organizations and the final ranking. Best Companies Group managed the overall registration, survey and analysis process and determined the final rankings.

“We at Virginia 529 are gratified by the success of our programs – and honored by the recognition that comes with being named as a top Virginia employer,” said Mary G. Morris, Chief Executive Officer. “The Virginia 529 team has camaraderie, sense of community and shared purpose that allows us to attract and retain great employees.”

Virginia 529 College Savings Plan is an Internal Revenue Code Section 529 plan that offers affordable, tax-advantaged savings for qualified higher education expenses through its four programs - Virginia Prepaid Education ProgramSM (VPEPSM), Virginia Education Savings TrustSM (VESTSM), College America[®] and CollegeWealth[®]. With over 2.1 million accounts and \$34 billion under management as of December 31, 2011, Virginia 529 is the largest 529 plan in the country. For more information on Virginia’s college savings options visit Virginia529.com.

For more information on the Best Places to Work in Virginia program, visit www.BestPlacesToWorkVA.com.