



Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Kara Ruge, Marketing & Public Information Officer, Cerro Gordo County Dept. of Public Health

2nd Annual Workplace Wellness Awards

CGCDPH Accepting Award Applications from Local Employers

(Mason City) - The Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health, in partnership with the Mason City Chamber of Commerce and their Blue Zones Project® Worksite Wellness Committee, is announcing the second annual Workplace Wellness Award and Recognition program. This program is offered to local employers who engage in and encourage workplace wellness initiatives.

The award program aims to recognize businesses who dedicate time and resources in providing their employees a work environment that supports health and well-being. Interested businesses should complete an award application found online at www.cghealth.com under *Wellness* or at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CGCWWAwards> by August 18, 2017. All applications will be reviewed and scored by the Blue Zones Project Worksite Committee. The top scoring business will receive recognition at the Mason City Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on October 5 with additional businesses recognized by the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health.

“We had a strong turnout in our first annual workplace wellness award applications last year, and the worksite committee decided it was key to build off that momentum by continuing to recognize local organizations that put employee health and well-being in the forefront of their business model,” states Kelli Gerdes, Health Promotion Manager, Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health. “The application process also allows the committee an opportunity to connect directly with local organizations and provide resources that can assist the employers with their workplace wellness programs.”

“This award really gave NIACC’s wellness program a healthy re-energizing boost,” noted Shelly Schmidt, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Organizational Development at North Iowa Area Community College. “The application process itself provided us the opportunity to really reflect on the College’s wellness program efforts and identify areas for improvement. We had a ton of fun promoting the award internally. We toted the award around to meetings and created a photo selfie contest to spread the word of our award.”

Application scoring is based on the strength of the wellness programming, policies, and environmental supports the organizations have in place to support employee health and ultimately improve the business. The six benchmarks used to score the applications include:

1. Management Engagement
2. Program Infrastructure
3. Data-Driven Programming
4. Goal-Oriented Work Plans
5. Visible Actions

Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health • 22 N. Georgia Ave. Suite 300

Mason City, IA 50401 • (641) 421-9300 or Toll Free: 1-888-264-2581

Facebook: Cerro Gordo County Public Health • Twitter page: <http://twitter.com/CGPublicHealth>

Web site: www.cghealth.com

6. Evaluation Process

Workplace Wellness Award Levels:

- Diamond – The top organization demonstrating an outstanding wellness program.
- Gold – Organizations with comprehensive wellness programs integrated into their business model .
- Silver – Organizations with good wellness programs and plans for expansion.
- Bronze – Organizations with a solid foundation to build their wellness activities.

The Workplace Wellness Award and Recognition program is partially funded by a University of Iowa Public Health Leadership Center's – Healthy Communities Grant. For more information, contact Kelli Gerdes at the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health, 641-421-9312 or kgerdes@cghealth.com

Workplace Wellness Award Applications are due August 18, 2017.

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