



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Health Links™ Celebrates Colorado's Healthiest Workplaces**

**Aurora, CO (August 23, 2016)**—Last week, close to 200 representatives from local businesses, health departments, and chambers of commerce from across the state came together to celebrate businesses championing workplace health and safety the third annual Celebrating Colorado's Healthiest Places to Work event hosted by Health Links.

Health Links, a program spearheaded by the Center for Health, Work & Environment at the Colorado School of Public Health, recognized five local organizations for their achievements in creating healthy and safe work environments. Denver-based BOA Technology received the innovation award for their creative wellness strategies. The City of Fort Collins, Wealth by Design, and Children's Hospital Colorado were honored with Champions of Wellness awards, presented to employers with high scores on the Health Links assessment for Healthy Business Certification. Aspen Valley Hospital received the most esteemed award, the Halo award, given to employers making a difference in both the lives of their employees and their community.

Dr. Lee Newman, Director of the Center for Health, Work & Environment at the Colorado School of Public Health opened the event, welcoming attendees and introducing Chief Medical Officer of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Dr. Larry Wolk. Dr. Wolk's remarks set the tone for the event, highlighting progress in workplace health but also emphasizing opportunities for growth.

Shortly after, Health Links Director and Co-founder Lili Tenney unveiled Health Links' first annual report. "We've reached 90,000 workers this year," Tenney announced.

She later shared her reflections on the last year, "It's amazing how much Health

Links has grown in just three years. Today, we're celebrating over 300 businesses participating in our program. These employers are concerned not only about the health and safety of their workforce, but also the well-being of their community. They are committed to changing the way they do business. Because of the incredible success and community support we've seen here in Colorado, we're expanding our model to other states."

Health Links' one-on-one advising model was a central theme at the event. Attendees mingled during the "Meet Your Mentor" session, talking with other businesses about the successes and challenges they experienced with their health and safety programs. Participants also heard from a panel of business leaders with experience crafting successful workplace health programs including Rachel Bannon-Godfrey of RNL Design, Demesha Hill of Janus Foundation, Steve Howard of Aspen Skiing Company, Meridith Marshall of the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade, and Ashley Schwader of the Poudre Valley School District.

More information about Health Links' Healthy Business Certification, recognizing companies that meet specific workplace health and safety standards, can be found at [www.healthlinkscertified.org/certification/get-certified](http://www.healthlinkscertified.org/certification/get-certified). Videos featuring the 2016 Health Links award nominees are available at [www.youtube.com/user/HealthLinksColorado](http://www.youtube.com/user/HealthLinksColorado).

### **About Health Links™**

Health Links is a nonprofit initiative spearheaded by the health and safety experts at the Center for Health, Work & Environment in the Colorado School of Public Health. Health Links helps to create sustainable wellness and safety programs for businesses by offering Healthy Business Certification, expert advising, and connection to local health and safety resources. Health Links is made possible through a generous start-up grant from Pinnacle Assurance and funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and the Hollis Family Trust.

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