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Health Links™ Recognizes the Healthiest Places to Work in Colorado

PARKER, Colo. (August 17, 2017) — Five businesses from across Colorado were recognized for their excellence in workplace health and safety at Health Links' annual Celebrating Colorado's Healthiest Places to Work event, held today at CU South Denver. Close to 200 leaders and representatives from businesses, nonprofits, and local governments attended the event to celebrate some of Colorado's healthiest businesses and discuss this year's event theme — family-friendly, one important aspect of a healthy work culture.

CSAA Insurance Group in Colorado Springs was recognized with the Halo Award, Health Links' most esteemed award, for their work to improve the health, safety, and well-being of their employees and members of their community. MINES & Associates in Littleton received the Innovation Award for their creative approach to addressing employee health. Pinnacol Assurance in Denver, Hilton Garden Inn at the Denver Airport in Aurora, and Mountain Family Center in Granby were awarded Champion of Well-Being Awards, given to businesses in each of the three tiers of Health Links' Healthy Business Certification and voted on by the public.

“Helping employees be healthy and well, at work and at home, is a top priority for the organizations that were recognized today. This event is a testament to the positive difference we can make in the lives of employees, employees' families, and entire communities when we prioritize health as a core business strategy,” said Lili Tenney, director and co-founder of Health Links.

Health Links, a program of the Center for Health, Work & Environment at the Colorado School of Public Health, works with employers to build a culture of health and safety in the workplace. The program provides an assessment, as well as advising sessions, to help businesses evaluate their health and safety culture and meet their goals. To be eligible for the Halo, Innovation, or Champion of Well-Being Awards, businesses must complete Health Links' assessment, an evidence-based



questionnaire used to certify organizations as Healthy Businesses. Health Links also offers opportunities for like-minded organizations to network and learn from one another's successes and challenges.

For the past three years, Health Links has brought together Colorado businesses leading in workplace health and safety to share resources and ideas at their annual event. At this year's event, the focus of the conversation was family-friendly workplaces, a hot topic in the business community. Many employers are interested in becoming more family-friendly in an effort to retain talented staff, improve productivity, and put into practice values of social responsibility.

"Employers who successfully integrate work and life are rewarded with happier, healthier employees who are dedicated, loyal, and productive. Family-friendly employers are winning the talent race by attracting and retaining qualified and skilled employees," said David Shapiro, business relations manager for EPIC, Executives Partnering to Invest in Children, and moderator of the family-friendly panel discussion at the event.

Industry and nonprofit leaders, including Shapiro, shared advice on how to build healthy, family-friendly work environments and discussed addressing the diverse needs of staff who may have different definitions of the word "family."

"At Health Links, we're really trying to broaden the definition of family to be inclusive of all people. By listening and encouraging an open dialogue, businesses can support employees to not only be good workers but also good friends, neighbors, and parents and excel in the other areas of their lives that are important to them," said Tenney.

To learn more about how Health Links' Healthy Businesses are creating healthy work environments, watch the videos of the Champion of Well-Being nominees at youtube.com/user/HealthLinksColorado. More information about Health Links' Healthy Business Certification and the Family-Friendly Assessment (FF+) that they offer in partnership with EPIC can be found online at healthlinkscertified.org/certification/get-certified.

About Health Links

Health Links is a signature program of the Center for Health, Work & Environment at the Colorado School of Public Health. We collaborate with employers to build a culture of health and safety in the workplace. Backed by the expertise of researchers and our local community advisors, we assess organizations' health and safety policies and programs, advise on actionable goals in one-





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on-one advising sessions, connect like-minded businesses with one another and to local resources, and certify qualifying employers as Healthy Businesses. For more information, visit healthlinkscertified.org.

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