

# Turnpike Motors Autobody Places 3<sup>rd</sup> in Hartford Business Journal's Best Places to Work 2012

(for small/medium business)

**March 21, 2012 Waterbury, CT:** Hartford Business Journal's Best Places to Work in CT 2012 event was held at the CoCo Key Resort in Waterbury, CT on Wednesday evening March 21. The night was filled with networking, social activities, a dinner and a keynote speaker. Karen Hinds, Founder and CEO of Workplace Success Group LLC talked about leadership, employees and strive for change in the workplace. She encouraged self leadership, allowing employees to operate in their natural talents and try to outdo yourself with change. The presenting sponsors were from Hooker & Holcombe, Inc and WDRC AM1360 The Talk of Connecticut radio.

The Best Places to Work Awards honored companies who ranked highest in employee satisfaction as found through a survey administered nationally by the Best Companies Group (not affiliated with the Hartford Business Journal) and is dedicated to identifying and recognizing Connecticut's best employers.

## The 2012 finalists included:

Acsys Interactive	Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	ICON International
American Eagle Federal Credit Union	Kforce Inc.
Bearingstar Insurance	NBC Connecticut
Bingham McCutchen LLP	Prometheus Research, LLC
Burns & McDonnell	Pullman & Comley, LLC
Carousel Industries	Pyramid Time Systems
Charter Oak Insurance and Financial Services Co.	Rib-X Pharmaceuticals
Citrin Cooperman and Company LLP	Robinson & Cole LLP
Comcast Cable	Stew Leonard's
Crystal Rock LLC	Tauck
Digitas	TicketNetwork Inc.
Edward Jones	Travel Insured International
FactSet Research Systems Inc.	<b>Turnpike Motors Auto Body</b>
Fiduciary Investment Advisors, LLC	VLink Inc.

Turnpike Motors Autobody received the award for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Small/Medium sized business category with 15 to 199 employees. This was Turnpike's first nomination into the Best Places to Work in Connecticut. The assessment process consists of a two-part process designed to gather data about the company. Part one is completed by the employer and includes an employer benefits and policies questionnaire. Part two is completed by the employees and includes questions about employee engagement and a satisfaction survey.

"Working at Turnpike has been one of the most positive experiences in my life," said Dan Hovey, customer service manager, who has been with Turnpike for seven years. "Turnpike emphasizes personal growth and a family atmosphere. I went to UConn for engineering and when I finished there, it was a very easy decision for me to return to Turnpike as a career option."

Turnpike Motors offers employees several benefits such as 3-weeks of paid vacation per year, health and dental insurance, bonuses, company outings and parties. Turnpike's largest party is the annual Christmas party held in December each year. This party is open to all employees and their family

members, plus outside vendors and loyal customers. The party includes a full dinner, open bar, and gifts for all employees that include flat screen TV's, iPads, professional sports tickets, laptops and extra paid vacation days to name a few.

Doug Fernandez, President of Turnpike Motors is very proud of his employees and wants them to feel important. "We try to remove the things that will get in the way of them focusing on work, and we believe if we give them a high level of autonomy and responsibility this will result in more fulfilling work," Fernandez said. Because of this, employee turnover is low and morale is very high.

Community involvement is also very important to Turnpike Motors. Each year, the company participates in local 5k races, walk-a-thons, fall festivals and they support local youth sports groups.

When talking about the future of Turnpike Motors, Doug Fernandez says, "We want to stay the course and continue to improve what we do, allow, coach and develop our people to find a better way."