

## ***SEATTLE BUSINESS HONORS 100 BEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR 2009***

SEATTLE—(June 26, 2009)—*Seattle Business* magazine honored 100 of Washington State's Best Companies to Work For 2009 an awards dinner held June 26, 2009 at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center in Seattle. David Ashcraft of Advantage Learning Systems emceed the night's awards presentation and the awards presented by *Seattle Business* Associate Publisher John Kueber and Editor Leslie Helm. One of the top award-winning companies of the night included The Unity Group out of Bellingham. The Unity Group is an independent insurance brokerage that has roots dating back to 1929 and received 6<sup>th</sup> Best Company for Work for in Washington State.

Prior to the awards dinner more than 40 workplace executives attended an Executive Forum to discuss innovations in reigning in health care costs. Highlights of the evening's gala event included a keynote speech by famed mountaineer Ed Viesturs on "Survival and Excellence" and a TV giveaway from presenting sponsor Comcast.

More than 10,000 employees of nominated companies filled out surveys administered by Seattle-based research firm Ipsos. From the calculated research, a distinguished panel of judges chose the top companies. Winning companies were recognized for setting the standards for leadership, benefits, work environment, innovative training programs, happiest employees and more.

A full list of the winners of the 100 Best Companies to Work For 2009 awards can be seen on [www.seattlebusinessmag.com](http://www.seattlebusinessmag.com). Photos from the events are available at [www.teamphotogenic.com/11340](http://www.teamphotogenic.com/11340).

Event sponsors included: Presenting Sponsor Comcast and Signature Sponsor Gallagher Benefit Services.

Nominations for the 2010 100 Best Companies event will begin on November 1, 2009 at [seattlebusinessmag.com](http://seattlebusinessmag.com)

**ABOUT *SEATTLE BUSINESS*:** Launched in October of 2005, *Seattle Business* publishes 12 issues annually and has a circulation of more than 40,000. In November of 2008, *Seattle Business* acquired *Washington CEO* and appointed Leslie Helm as Editor (a position he had previously held at *Washington CEO*). Annual events tied to its editorial coverage include Best Companies (June 25, 2009), Green Washington Awards (September 23, 2009) and Top 25 Innovators (October 21, 2009). *Seattle Business* is owned by Minneapolis-based Tiger Oak Publications, which also publishes *Seattle*, *Seattle Bride* magazines as well as more than 20 other leading regional magazines. Visit *Seattle Business* online at [seattlebusinessmag.com](http://seattlebusinessmag.com).