

Local firms on list of best

Survey of workers and management seeks to rank top employers in state.

BY DAVID FALCHEK
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Five Northeast Pennsylvania companies were named among the 100 Best Places To Work in Pennsylvania.

The local winners come from a

range of sectors: a scooter maker, uniform rental, dental equipment supplier, and online school and vacation sales company.

The designation comes from Team Pennsylvania Foundation. To qualify, employers allow their employees to be surveyed, which accounts for two-thirds of the score. A management questionnaire on benefits and work environment account the other third.

The list is unranked, but later this month, recipients gather in Lancaster

for announcement of top finishers.

Local honorees include:

- Dempsey Uniform & Linen Supply, Jessup. The uniform rental and launderer has a bright, clean, state-of-the-art facility, good pay and benefits. But physical work environment and compensation is a baseline for employee satisfaction, said company President P.J. Dempsey. He noted that someone could work in a nice place, be well paid, but still dislike his boss and job.

BEST: Diverse group of NEPA companies among top employers

“A lot of companies manage by numbers and don’t listen to their employees - those are the things employees will complain about,” Mr. Dempsey said. “When employees are willing to vent to me about something at work, I know we are managing properly because they care, and they know I care. It’s not a gimmick or something you can copy.”

This is the second consecutive year Dempsey has made the list.

- Penn Foster, Scranton. Penn foster President Tom O’Keefe said the company’s 120-year ties to the community translate to the work environment and the family atmosphere.

“Over the last few years, we evolved into a terrific place to work,” Mr. O’Keefe said. “We have a great relationship with the labor union, we’re family conscious and our employees are our neighbors.”

Penn Foster is a distance-learning career school.

- Benco Dental, Pittston Twp. A supplier of dental products nationwide, Benco Dental has made the list seven out of the last eight years.

George Rable, Benco vice president of culture and people, said he thinks the company scores well because of good managers who hire the right people. A state-of-the-art new facility has helped.

“We have a culture here of working hard but also having fun,” he said.

- Pride Mobility Products Corp., Exeter. The manufacturer of mobility scooters and home medical equipment employs about 800 people locally and 1,000 worldwide.

- Sundance Vacations, a wholesale seller of vacation packages, made the list for the fourth straight year. Communications director Scott Carey

said owners Tina and John Dowd have a close relationship with their 600 employees, and know just about all of them by name. The company has about 300 employees in its Wilkes-Barre Twp. headquarters.

“Before they founded the company 19 years ago, they were working in positions at all levels of the industry, so they identify with the employees,” Mr. Carey said.

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P.J. Dempsey
Dempsey Uniform & Linen Supply