

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 10, 2008

**Contact:** Liz Underwood, 312-251-9913

lunderwood@ksapr.com

**DIVERSE CHICAGOLAND BUSINESSES RECOGNIZED FOR WORKPLACE EXCELLENCE**

*Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and Right Management Honor Companies for Innovative People Practices that Make a Difference*

**CHICAGO** – Eved Services (Eved) and Vulcan Materials Company (Vulcan) are being honored as winners of the sixth annual Right Workplace Award. The award, given by the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and Right Management, recognizes Chicagoland businesses that improve their company's culture and competitive advantage by designing and implementing innovative and unique employee-focused programs.

"Strong workplace practices are always important to a company's success," said Mark Schmitz, market vice president of Right Management. "But, in today's challenging environment, such practices can mean the difference between success or failure. Programs designed to engage and reward employees in meaningful and compelling ways can contribute to greater company efficiency, profitability and ultimately, growth. This year's Right Workplace Award winners represent very different company types, sizes and industries. Yet each, in its own way, has shown significant results through the design and implementation of creative and positive people practices."

Eved Services, based in Skokie, is an event services company that has experienced 1,900% growth in its four-year history, and is being recognized for the creation of Eved U, an all-employee training program that has enabled the company to provide seamlessly high-quality staffing to its clients. To deal with issues related to its own swift growth, the company took dramatic steps to fix its problems. All employees must now complete the Eved U training course and pass it. Employees who do not pass the course are retrained in weak areas until they are successful. As a result of this and related programs, both employee and client satisfaction is now very high. Employee per capita revenue has increased by 67 percent over 2007 and profit has grown by 73 percent.

Vulcan Materials Company, Midwest Division, located in Naperville, is the nation's largest producer of construction material aggregates, primarily crushed stone, sand and gravel that are used in nearly all forms of construction. Vulcan is being recognized for its dynamic employee development initiative that focuses on individual development plans and total management involvement. In just a few short years, Vulcan has successfully transformed its internal divisional relations, moving from a top down, tell-do approach to an integrative, communicative system of sustained success through coaching, mentoring and executive succession planning. Based on the Midwest Division's success, many of Vulcan's operating divisions are implementing a similar program. Evidence of the division's success includes reductions in voluntary turnover by 43 percent, recruitment expenses by 70 percent and relocation costs by 60 percent. Exempt promotion rates have increased 20 percent and new requests for tuition reimbursement are rapidly rising. These statistics have created a positive, motivated and thriving work environment for both the company and its employees.

"We applaud Eved and Vulcan, as well as the many other companies that applied for the Right Workplace Award," said Jerry Roper, president and CEO of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. "Their commitment to developing innovative practices that benefit not only their bottom line, but their employees and customers, makes Chicagoland a place where people want to come to live and work. It is particularly gratifying to see these winning companies represent both the very small entrepreneurial company and the large, established, more traditional business. This shows that great things can happen in organizations of all types."

Winners were selected by the Chicagoland Chamber's Workplace Excellence Committee based on their ability to clearly demonstrate the connection between people practices and business success through award applications, interviews and site visits.

Honorees will discuss their award-winning workplace practices and the benefits that have resulted for their employees and their companies in a panel discussion moderated by Loyola University Professor of Philosophy and Business Ethics, author and Chicago Public Radio (WBEZ) personality Al Gini on Thursday, November 13 at the Right Workplace Award Winners' Forum. The event is open to the public with a networking session beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by a formal dinner at 6 p.m. and forum until 8:30 p.m. at UBS Tower, located at One North Wacker Drive. For registration information visit [www.chicagolandchamber.org](http://www.chicagolandchamber.org).

#### **About Right Management**

Right Management ([www.right.com](http://www.right.com)) is a leading global provider of integrated consulting solutions across the employment life cycle. Right Management helps clients maximize the return on their human capital investments while assisting individuals to achieve their full potential. Right Management is a wholly owned subsidiary of Manpower, Inc. (NYSE:MAN), a world leader in the employment services industry, creating and delivering services that enable its clients to win in the changing world of work.

#### **About the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce**

The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce was the first regional Chamber of Commerce in the United States and has served independent business throughout the Chicago metropolitan area since 1904. The Chamber's 2,600 plus members employ more than one million individuals throughout Chicagoland. The mission of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce is to make Chicagoland the most business-friendly region in America and enhance member success through aggressive programs of advocacy, member benefits and services, and actionable information. More information is available at [www.chicagolandchamber.org](http://www.chicagolandchamber.org).

###