

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Eight Companies Receive State's Workplace Safety Awards**

**March 14, 2012 (INDIANAPOLIS)** — The 2012 Governor's Workplace Safety Awards for advancing occupational safety and health were awarded at a luncheon ceremony Tuesday at the 2012 Indiana Safety and Health Conference & Expo in Indianapolis. The event was presented by the Central Indiana Chapter of American Society of Safety Engineers and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. The director of INSafe, Michelle Ellison, on behalf of the Indiana Department of Labor and Gov. Mitch Daniels, bestowed the honors to eight Hoosier companies.

"These honorees have taken occupational safety to the next level to ensure that their workers (and students) are in a safe environment and practice the proper procedures, plus are recognized as community resources for workplace safety knowledge," shares Ellison.

Organizations were recognized in the following categories: education and outreach in construction industry, external education and outreach in general industry, innovations in construction industry, innovations in general industry, internal education and outreach in general industry and partnerships in general industry. The 2012 Governor's Workplace Safety Award recipients are:

- AbsorbTech, LLC in South Bend – internal education and outreach in general industry by a small company (under 100 employees)
- ConAgra Foods, Rensselaer plant – partnerships in general industry
- DSM Engineering Plastics Americas in Evansville – innovations in general industry by a medium company
- Purdue University in West Lafayette – innovations in general industry by a large company
- Steinberger Construction, Inc. in Logansport – education and outreach in construction industry
- Superior Essex in Kendallville – internal education and outreach in general industry by a large company (500-plus employees)
- Tanners Creek Plant, Indiana Michigan Power in Lawrenceburg (two awards) – external education and outreach in general industry; internal education and outreach in general industry by a medium company (101 to 499 employees)
- Turner Construction Company of Indiana, LLC in Indianapolis – innovations in construction industry

Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar stresses the key benefits of a safe work environment. "A chief byproduct is a more efficient, profitable workplace. It also leads to employee satisfaction and thereby employee retention," he says. "When an occupational safety plan has been implemented, employees feel like they are being valued."

The 2012 Governor's Workplace Safety Awards are a result of a partnership among government, business and safety leaders: the Indiana Department of Labor, on behalf of the Governor, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers.

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The Indiana Chamber of Commerce is the state's largest broad-based business advocacy and information organization, representing nearly 5,000 member companies that employ 800,000 Hoosier workers.