

AARP Arizona News

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AARP: CITY OF GLENDALE NAMED A 2009 BEST EMPLOYER FOR WORKERS OVER 50

Washington, DC – The City of Glendale has been named by AARP to its 2009 list of *Best Employers for Workers Over 50*. The City joins an impressive list of 50 honorees announced today by AARP CEO Barry Rand.

More than 200 employers applied for Best Employers honors, the highest total in the nine-year history of the program designed to highlight exemplary policies toward workers aged 50 and over.

“We are delighted that the City of Glendale has been selected as one of AARP’s Best Employers for Workers Over 50,” said AARP Arizona State Director David Mitchell. “The City of Glendale has offered a number of progressive policies in its approach toward older workers, and is the perfect example of these policies in local government.”

This is the first time the City of Glendale has made the list of *AARP Best Employers for Workers Over 50*, and is the only city organization in Arizona and nationwide that has made the list. With programs like the “2 Young 2 Retire” and built-in stability bonuses, the City seeks to make its mature workers and retirees feel valued.

The City of Glendale’s “2 Young 2 Retire” program encourages mature employees to explore personal, vocational, and volunteer opportunities for the next phase of life. The City also provides a “stability bonus” of about \$800 a year to each employee who began working for the City before 1993. About a third of Glendale’s non-public safety employees receive this longevity pay. Twenty-nine percent of Glendale employees are 50+.

“Glendale values diversity in all levels of our organization,” said Glendale City Manager Ed Beasley. “This distinction from AARP is a testament to that commitment, and we are extremely proud and honored to be the only city in Arizona to be named to the Top Employers list.”

Any U.S.-based employer with at least 50 employees is eligible to apply for the Best Employers award. Candidates are vetted to ensure that practices meet the needs of mature workers. Key areas of consideration include: recruiting practices, opportunities for training, education and career development; workplace accommodations; alternative work options, such as flexible scheduling, job sharing, and phased retirement; employee health and retirement benefits and retiree work opportunities.

This year, a separate hospitals and health care Best Employers honor roll was established by AARP. AARP decided to set up a separate category in order to acknowledge efforts in the health care field to creatively deal with shortages in qualified workers that have faced the health care industry for years.

AARP The Magazine will feature the 2009 Best Employers in its November-December issue, available in homes September 24. The article will be found online then at www.aarpmagazine.org.

For more information on the 2009 Best Employers, please go to www.aarp.org/bestemployers. Included is background on each employer's workforce practices and a description of the selection process.

AARP has over 846,000 members in Arizona. AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over 34.5 million readers; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for AARP's 40 million members and Americans 50+; AARP Segunda Juventud, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.