

## All Points among wellness honorees

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Fifth Nebraska employers, including All Points Cooperative headquartered in Gothenburg, will be honored this fall for successful efforts in promoting workplace wellness.

A total of 203 awards have been given since the program began six years ago. Nebraska is one of only a handful of states nationwide honoring wellness efforts of employers.

“These awards recognize employers for their serious commitment to employee well-being,” said Gov. Heineman. “Prevention and wellness efforts in the workplace have produced higher productivity, better employee satisfaction and helped control health care costs.

“Wellness works every time. These programs are helping more Nebraskans lead healthier lives.”

The award was created to recognize Nebraska employers that have developed successful models for encouraging wellness at work. Representatives from companies in greater Nebraska will be honored at a luncheon in Kearney on Thursday, Sept. 26, and in Gering on Thursday, Oct. 3.

Factors considered for the award included the level of support for the program by company leaders, assessment of employee needs, wellness plan design, outcomes and benefits and policies supporting healthy behaviors. Wellness programs typically provide employees with health education, health screenings and opportunities for exercise.

“Nebraska’s wellness program for state employees has received national attention for being a leader in workplace wellness programs,” said Dr. Joseph Acierno, Nebraska’s chief medical officer. “That’s because our program empowers employees to make good decisions about the health risk factors in their lives. As a result, workers can take action to avoid chronic illnesses that can adversely impact their health and affect their quality of life.

“Based on the State of Nebraska’s experience and the Governor’s Wellness Award program we

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hope to encourage more businesses in Nebraska to offer employee health and wellness programs.”

Nebraska’s workplace wellness program offers two categories. The Sower Award recognizes workplaces that have established quality wellness programs; the Grower Award takes it to the next level, and honors businesses and organizations demonstrating significant improvement in employee health status through their wellness programs.

All Points Cooperative will receive the Grower Award.

Area entities receiving the Sower Award include: Lexington Public School, Orthman Manufacturing and Broken Bow Public Schools.