



MEDICA®

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Relations

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**Medica Lauded for Improving Air Quality and Reducing Traffic Congestion**

*First Minnetonka Company to Receive Best Workplaces for Commuters Award*

Minnetonka, MN – Medica has been designated one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> by the Center for Urban Transportation and Research (CUTR), the University of South Florida's (USF) internationally recognized resource for transportation policy and education.

Medica is the first company in Minnetonka to receive the award.

Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>, a voluntary partnership program designed to cut traffic congestion and traffic-related air pollution, recognizes employers that provide environmentally friendly commuter benefits to employees. Offering these commuter benefits identifies Medica as an organization committed to reducing pollution, commuting costs, traffic congestion, and employee stress caused by single-occupant vehicle commuting.

Medica offers its employees many opportunities to pursue environmentally friendly and cost-effective commuting strategies. These include discounted transit fares, a carpool program that includes premium parking spaces and gas card rewards, and designated lockers for employees who commute by bicycle. Medica also participates in Guaranteed Ride Home, a program that ensures a ride home by cab or bus should an employee in a commuter program need one for certain circumstances.

“Best Workplaces for Commuters recognizes employers who offer commuter benefits such as discounted transit passes, ridematching services and bicycle commuting programs,” said Philip L. Winters, CUTR's national program manager for Best Workplaces for Commuters. “Offering commuter benefits is a win-win situation whereby employees who change their commuting habits save time, money and stress while their employers gain a competitive edge in employee recruiting and retention.”

“We are proud to make this commitment to our employees and to the environment,” said Deb Knutson, Medica's senior vice president of human resources, learning and facilities. “The Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> program demonstrates that promoting a healthy lifestyle and a clean environment are beneficial to employees, communities and companies like Medica alike.”

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Medica's programs reduce commuting costs not only for its employees, but also for all commuters by taking cars off the road and reducing traffic congestion. The production of ground-level ozone, the major component of smog, is reduced as well.

Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> <[www.bestworkplaces.org](http://www.bestworkplaces.org)> is managed by CUTR@USF. The program was initiated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and United States Department of Transportation in 2002. The purpose is to identify and recognize those U.S. companies offering employees significant incentives and programs encouraging commuting alternatives aimed at saving energy and money as well as reducing air pollution. Responsibility for the BWC program shifted to CUTR@USF in late 2007. EPA and DOT established a voluntary *National Standard of Excellence* for employer-provided commuter benefits that CUTR@USF continues to use. The program challenges employers across the country to meet voluntarily the *National Standard of Excellence*.

### **About Medica**

Serving more than 1.3 million members, Medica is a health insurance company headquartered in Minneapolis and active in the Upper Midwest. The non-profit company provides health care coverage in the employer, individual, Medicaid, Medicare and Medicare Part D markets in Minnesota and a growing number of counties in North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Medica also offers national network coverage to employers who also have employees outside the Medica regional network.

Medica has the highest accreditation status, Excellent, from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA®) for its Minnesota Medicaid HMO plans and commercial health plans in Minnesota and North Dakota. Medica's vision is to become the community's health plan of choice, trusted for its integrity, respected for its service, and admired for its commitment to innovation and efficiency.

### **About the Center for Urban Transportation Research and the University of South Florida**

CUTR conducts nearly \$8 million in research annually for a variety of public and private sector sponsors in Florida and the United States, including the Florida Legislature, the Florida Transportation Commission, and state and local governments, agencies, and organizations. Areas of research include public transportation, transportation planning, intelligent transportation systems (ITS), transportation demand management (TDM), transportation economics and finance, geographic information systems, access management, alternative fuels, and transportation safety, among others.

The University of South Florida is among the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of 39 community engaged public universities as designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. It is one of Florida's top three research universities. USF was awarded more than \$300 million in research contracts and grants last year. The University offers 219 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, specialist and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine. The University has a \$1.8 billion annual budget, an annual economic impact of \$3.2 billion, and serves more than 45,000 students on campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland. USF is a member of the Big East Athletic Conference.