

Insurance firm tops best workplace list

Burnham Benefits leads national business magazine's annual ranking.

BY IAN WHEELER
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Irvine-based Burnham Benefits Insurance Services was ranked first in Business Insurance Magazine's annual "Best Place to Work" list among companies with 25-249 employees.

It was the employee benefits and brokerage firm's first year in the running for the national honor.

Insurance companies from around the country were assessed based on questionnaires answered by management and employees on workplace benefits and employee satisfaction. Questions probed the companies' core values, corporate culture and communications strategies.

"I think we do well on the surveys because our employees are happy and we provide a great career path for them within our organization," said owner and Chief Executive Officer Kristen Allison.

Burnham Benefits stands out because its employees apply their skills through hybrid roles within the company and are not limited to defined positions, which boosts confidence and productivity, Allison said. That's how the company attracts and promotes

talented people, she said.

Burnham Benefits also is privately owned, which deters bureaucracy, she said - decisions are made for the company, not for the shareholders.

The survey also asked employees about their company's perks.

Burnham Benefits' 65 employees enjoy a stocked kitchen, weekly catered lunches and rewards for good work, the company said. In the past, the company has sent office wellness contest winners on trips to Hawaii.

Burnham Benefits also has ranked first among small employers in Orange County Business Journal's "Best Places to Work in Orange County" for the past three years.

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COURTESY OF BURNHAM BENEFITS

Burnham Benefits senior account executives Marina Nordby, Catherine Seitz and account manager Stacey Battani form a team for a six-week wellness challenge at the company's headquarters in Irvine.

