

The Southwest Chapter of the ESOP Association presented its Ninth Annual Award for Best Communications to Acadian Ambulance Service



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DALLAS, TX. -- The Southwest Chapter of the ESOP Association, a regional organization of companies in Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, in which employees are owners through Employee Stock Ownership Plans, presented its Ninth Annual Award for Best Communications to Acadian Ambulance Service.

Acadian Ambulance was honored with Best Communications for services and accomplishments with emphasis on how ownership enhances their quality of service. The award is presented annually to the company with the best overall program for communicating the values and benefits of employee ownership and ESOPs, including the use of newsletters, web sites, special events and other communications. Commenting about Acadian's entries, Allison Wilkerson, ESOP committee representative said, "Acadian leaves no stone unturned in its efforts to spread the good news of employee ownership to its employee-owners and the customers and communities they serve."

Acadian ESOP Vice Chair Ed Smith in accepting the award thanked his fellow ESOP committee members, Acadian's management staff and the PR & Marketing department. "This award validates that we are moving in the right direction in communication ESOP to our co-workers," Smith said. "We are a better company because of a program that maximizes human potential by enhancing the self-worth, dignity, and wellbeing of our people. Our ESOP message is clear--it enables our working family to share in the wealth they help create."

Acadian Ambulance Service ranks among the top 100 employee-owned companies in the U.S., according to a list compiled by the National Center for Employee Ownership. The men and women of Acadian became employee-owners of the largest privately owned ambulance service in the U.S. in 1993, with the adoption of an Employee Stock Ownership Program (ESOP). Under the plan, 75 percent of the company value in stock is available to employees. The plan involves placing the stock in trust, with those shares acquired by employees redeemable in cash at the time of retirement.

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Cutline: The Southwest Chapter of the ESOP Association, in which employees are owners through Employee Stock Ownership Plans, presented its Ninth Annual Award for Best Communications to Acadian Ambulance Service. Pictured are (back row) CFO David Kelly and Acadian ESOP Committee Members Scott Johnson, Janie Fuller, Herman Leger, Ed Smith, Eddie Robinson, Ann Venable, Ashley Cole, Melissa Juneau, Maisha Chargois and Michelle Speer.