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MOTAWI TILEWORKS WINS PRESTIGIOUS ALFRED P. SLOAN AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY WORKPLACE PRACTICES

Ann Arbor, MI (September 16, 2009) – The winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility offer a unique picture of organizations that are finding a new middle ground. “From new forms of flexible work arrangements that minimize lay-offs, to creative cost-cutting that retains core medical benefits, to providing financial information and support to employees, these employers are braving the economic storm through innovative policies that prevent undue shock to their workplaces and their employees,” said Ellen Galinsky, President, Families and Work Institute.



Thomas G. flips flapjacks for company lunch.

Motawi Tileworks was honored by Detroit Regional Chamber and Michigan Economic Development Corporation at a luncheon this past Friday in Lansing. Motawi’s workplace practices include flex time, World Café strategic planning and Toyota-style lean manufacturing.



Motawi staff at their monthly company lunch.

“We have worked hard to increase productivity during the economic downturn,” says Co-Owner Nawal Motawi. “In January, we asked employees for assistance in devising cost-cutting measures to avoid layoffs. The result was a substantive list of new cost cuts for our studio along with a consensus that taking a collective 10% reduction in pay would allow us to move forward prudently and contain costs. The measures we took were deep, yet effective. Recently, as the economy improves, we’ve been able to eliminate the cap on hours.”

“Providing a balance between work and family life is especially important in these challenging economic times,” Adds Karim Motawi. “Keeping a positive and flexible work atmosphere allows

everybody to work to their fullest potential with out adding to the stress caused by national conditions.”

The Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility are part of the *When Work Works* project, an ongoing initiative of the Families and Work Institute, the Institute for a Competitive Workforce (an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce), and the Twiga Foundation. Through *When Work Works*, these partner organizations provide research, resources, and recognition to employers nationwide. The project shares the results of research on creating effective and flexible workplaces that meet the needs of the 21st century.

Each of the 2009 Sloan Award winners will also be recognized nationally and will be featured in next year’s edition of the *Guide to Bold New Ideas for Making Work Work*, published by Families and Work Institute.

Now in its fifth year, the prestigious awards program expanded its application base to



Motawi staff with one of their custom public murals.

organizations nation-wide for the first time in 2009. With the introduction of an “at-large” category and 30 participating communities across the country, any organization in the U.S. was eligible for the award

For more information about *When Work Works* or the Alfred P. Sloan Awards, please contact Tyler Wigton at (212) 465-2044 or twigton@familiesandwork.org or Motawi staff at their monthly company lunch Kelly Sakai at (212) 465-2044 x 211 and at ksakai@familiesandwork.org.

ABOUT MOTAWI TILEWORKS

Now in its 17th year, Motawi Tileworks handcrafts historically-informed art tile in the Arts and Crafts tradition in their Ann Arbor studio. Polychrome tile are created in the Cuenca Style as individual pieces of art and sold through a nationwide list of galleries and museum stores. Relief and field tile are hand dipped in luscious glazes for residential and commercial installations: fireplaces, kitchens, floors, baths and fountains. Visit www.motawi.com to learn about the art tile making processes, to view the installation gallery, or to shop for art tile.

ABOUT FAMILIES AND WORK INSTITUTE

Families and Work Institute (FWI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization that studies the changing workforce, family and community. As a preeminent think tank, FWI is known for being ahead of the curve, identifying emerging issues, and then conducting rigorous research that often challenges common wisdom and provides insight and knowledge. As an action tank, FWI conducts numerous studies that put its research into action and then evaluates the results. Its *purpose is to create research to live by*. For more information, see www.familiesandwork.org.



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