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ABC Supply earns honor

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Great Workplace award given

"We all put our pants on in the same way."

That's what ABC Supply Co. owner Ken Hendricks said about the lack of hierarchy in his company.

That employee inclusion may have helped the company win the 2007 Gallup Great Workplace Award. ABC Supply Co. is one of only 12 companies in the world to receive the honor.

The Gallup Great Workplace Awards, announced in Washington, D.C. on Monday, recognized the best-performing workplaces. A panel of workplace experts compared each company's results to those of thousands of work teams all over the world, using Gallup's massive data base.

ABC Supply is among the winners because its results demonstrate that the company has one of the most productive and engaged workforces. Other 2007 winners included Starbucks, Wells Fargo and The Campbell Soup Company.

"Studying more than 10 million employees worldwide allowed us to set an extraordinarily high bar for this award," said Tom Rath, who leads Gallup's workplace and Leadership Consulting practice. "The winners have gone far beyond just offering nice perks and benefits. They have created an environment that truly engages people every day, throughout the organization and it is that kind of engagement that helps to drive real business outcomes."

ABC Supply is the largest wholesale distributor of roofing in the United States and one of the nation's largest distributors of siding, windows and other select exterior building products. ABC Supply has more than 350 centers in 45 states. In 2006 it reached nearly \$3 billion in sales and opened a new store on average every one to two weeks.

Although Hendricks is proud of the company's growth, he is even more pleased with his latest honor. He said his greatest dream was to make his company the best place in America to work.

"We've become the largest in our industry. We've received a lot of awards and recognition, but to me this is one of the best achievements," Hendricks said. "This is the best place in America to work and this is Beloit."

Hendricks said the award will send a message letting people know that they don't have to relocate in order to work for a quality company.

Hendricks believes the company received the award because of its inclusive work environment.

"Employees feel like they are part of the company," Hendricks said. "People can actually give their input and have a say in what happens in the business."

Keith Rozolis, ABC Supply Co.'s senior vice president of strategic marketing, agreed.

"I've worked in other companies besides ABC Supply Co. and I know how special it is and how well we take care of our associates," Rozolis said. "Everyone is treated as a member of the ABC family. We are not a very

hierarchical company.”

Rozolis said that twice a year employees take an anonymous survey about the company. Their responses are a key component of the Gallup criteria.