



**HIGHMARK COMPANIES RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE 50
FASTEST GROWING COMPANIES IN THE TRIANGLE**

RALEIGH, N.C. (November 15, 2011) – Highmark Companies, a leading Raleigh-based professional services firm, has been selected as one of the 50 fastest growing companies in the Triangle by the Triangle Business Journal. The award is based on revenue and profitability growth for the years 2008 through 2010. This is Highmark’s third time on the Fast 50 and we were one of only a few professional services firms selected.

“I’m very grateful that Highmark has received another Fast 50 award, and for the first time, received it in consecutive years. I think this validates that by focusing on the right things for our clients, along with the outstanding support of our employees, you can be successful in any economic environment,” said Highmark CEO Darrell Smith. “I want to thank all of our employees for their hard work which has enabled us to win this award for the third time. We are honored to be recognized as a member of the Fast 50.”

“This year’s Fast 50 winners show tremendous strength in the face of turbulent markets,” says Triangle Business Journal Publisher Bryan Hamilton. “They are injecting cash into our economy and are on the forefront of creating jobs in our communities.”

Highmark Companies provides information technology and professional services to state and local government, private industry, and the federal government. Highmark’s philosophy has four cornerstones: 1) maintaining a company-wide focus on our clients, 2) fostering an employee-friendly work environment, 3) investing strategically in our back office infrastructure, and 4) promoting good corporate citizenship by giving back to the communities where we work and live.

Since the inception of the company in 1999, our philosophy and the team we have assembled have resulted in our growth each year. The recent economic challenges have required us to transform our business by diversifying into the commercial and federal business sectors. In 2005, state and local government accounted for 95% of our business and in 2011 this will only be 30% of our business. Since 2005, the company has more than tripled in size with projected revenues of over \$13 million this year.

Triangle Business Journal recognized the 50 fastest growing private companies in the Triangle at the 19th Annual 2011 Fast 50 Awards dinner on November 15. Held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center in RTP, the awards gala honored companies for their entrepreneurial excellence and achievements. The 2011 Fast 50 Awards program is a Triangle Business Journal event presented by Bank of America and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Profiles of the honorees were featured in a Fast 50 Awards special section of the Triangle Business Journal, which is available to subscribers in the November 18 issue and online at

<http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/news/2011/11/21/slideshow-heres-who-is-hiring-among.html>