

HIGHMARK COMPANIES 25TH IN NC BUSINESS LEADER MAGAZINE'S TOP 100 SMALL BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA RANKING:

RALEIGH, N.C. (June 30, 2010) – Highmark Companies, a leading Raleigh-based professional services firm, has been ranked one of the top 100 North Carolina small businesses, according to *Business Leader* magazine. Highmark ranked 25th was the highest ranked professional services firm on the list.

Business Leader's Top 100 North Carolina Small Businesses is comprised of companies with 100 employees or less that are top performers in North Carolina. Rankings are based on one-year and five-year revenue growth, business achievements, and community involvement.

“This ranking is a testament to the quality services our staff provides our clients each and every day” said Highmark CEO Darrell Smith. “Our strategy of diversifying the business, by adding commercial and federal customers to our existing state and local government business, has been critical to us growing in this challenging economic environment, and achieving 11 consecutive years of revenue growth. We are honored to be recognized as a leading small business in North Carolina.”

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 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 2009 this was only 50% of our business. Since 2005, the company has nearly tripled in size with projected revenues of over \$11 million this year.

Published monthly in various editions across the Southeast, *Business Leader* magazine provides market intelligence and features on the companies, leaders and business happenings in the area. Its annual North Carolina rankings have become one of the state’s top honors for small businesses. Recognized companies were announced during three simultaneous Top 100 Small Business Awards Dinners held June 24 in Raleigh, Charlotte, and Greensboro.