



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

**RALEIGH, N.C. (November 5, 2010)** – 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 2007 through 2009. This is Highmark's second time on the Fast 50 and we were one of only a few professional services firms selected.

"This recognizes us in the context of all privately held companies in the Triangle and shows 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. "Our strategy of diversifying the business, by adding commercial and federal customers to our existing state and local government business, has been critical to achieving 11 consecutive years of revenue growth. We are honored to be recognized as a member of the FAST 50."

"For 18 years, the Fast 50 Awards has been the benchmark by which fast growing Triangle companies judge their success," says Charlene Grunwaldt, publisher of Triangle Business Journal. "This year's winners are particularly impressive because in addition to a competitive landscape, these firms have overcome a challenging economy and continued to report growth in revenue and profits. These 50 companies are clearly the businesses to watch."

"Our 50 winners found silver linings where few thought it possible," said Charlene Grunwaldt. "Clearly, the 50 private companies being recognized here are at the front of the pack."

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 2010 this will only be 30% of our business. Since 2005, the company has nearly tripled in size with projected revenues of over \$11 million this year.

Triangle Business Journal recognized the 50 fastest growing private companies in the Triangle at the 18th Annual 2010 Fast 50 Awards dinner on November 4. Held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center in RTP, the awards gala honored companies for their entrepreneurial excellence and achievements. The 2010 Fast 50 Awards program is a Triangle Business Journal event presented by PricewaterhouseCoopers and Bank of America, and sponsored by USfalcon.

Profiles of the honorees were featured in a Fast 50 Awards special section, which is available to subscribers in the November 5 issue of the paper and online at

<http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2010/10/11/daily1.html>