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**WELLBUSINESS APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE;**

HICKORY, NC – Applications are now available for the Cancer Task Force WellBusiness program, which recognizes local companies for their efforts to promote employee health and help reduce the impact of cancer. Businesses with active worksite wellness initiatives are encouraged to apply by requesting an application online at [www.catawbacountyhealthpartners.org](http://www.catawbacountyhealthpartners.org). The deadline to apply is February 26, 2016, and there is no fee to participate.

The WellBusiness program invites companies big and small to indicate their use of proven standards in five cancer prevention categories: tobacco control, physical activity, nutrition, cancer screenings, and policy and organizational support.

Companies need to meet at least one standard in all five categories to be eligible for recognition. Participating companies must be located entirely or partially in Catawba County and base their application on activities available to their employees in Catawba County. Achievement levels include gold, silver and bronze WellBusiness status.

Each company that earns WellBusiness designation at any level receives a WellBusiness certificate, banner, use of WellBusiness branding materials, local publicity, recognition at an annual awards luncheon, and access to WellBusiness networking and technical resources.

WellBusiness standards represent evidence-based and best practice worksite wellness recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Preventive Services Task Force, and the U.S. Community Preventive Services Task Force's evidence-based practice resource, The Community Guide.

The Cancer Task Force, which is comprised of volunteer representatives from area hospitals, healthcare providers, nonprofits, businesses, service agencies, and local government, works to prevent cancer by implementing community health strategies. It is part of Catawba County Health Partners, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing Catawba County's health priorities. As the leading cause of death in Catawba County, cancer has been a local health priority since the 2008 Catawba County Community Health Assessment. For more information, please visit [www.catawbacountyhealthpartners.org](http://www.catawbacountyhealthpartners.org).

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