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# Family-friendly firms win praise

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*Sequent Computer Systems of Beaverton is among six Oregon businesses recognized for balancing work and life*

BY TRICIA DURYEE  
THE OREGONIAN

Sometimes all Jayne Nanavaty-Dahl needs is a hug from her 5 1/2-year-old daughter.

And she doesn't have to go far to get it.

Sequent Computer Systems Inc. has an on-site, nationally accredited child-care center and primary school that caters to the 117 children of its 1,200 employees. The learning center is just one part of more than 90 programs that helps

Sequent employees balance their work and life, said Nanavaty-Dahl, Sequent's work family manager.

Sequent, a computer systems and software manufacturer, was recognized for its commitment to having a family-friendly business at Thursday night's Families in Good Company Awards ceremony.

## WORK LIFE

Families in Good Company is a program of Children First for Oregon, a statewide children's advocacy group. The program operates in partnership with local commissions on children and families, the Oregon Commission for Child Care, the Portland Human Resource Management Association,

the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor and Portland General Electric Co.

Six Oregon companies, including Sequent, were recognized at the ceremony for being "Oregon's Best Family-Friendly Employers." The companies were categorized by size. Judges considered policies and practices, like flexible work hours, paid leave time for school visits, financial assistance for child care/elder care, telecommuting options and work-life support programs. The annual awards have been given out since 1997.

Some winners had even more specialized programs. For example, Sequent has summer camps for children, parenting classes, on-site yoga, martial arts and dry cleaning. Other companies had paid leave time for volunteer work.

"I think it's really being more popular with businesses," said Rose Yuska, project manager for Families in Good Company. "They want to do something to balance work and family. The job has to get done at work and at home."

This year's winners include:

- ◆ Less than 10 employees: Bravo! Publications in Portland
- ◆ For 11 to 49 employees: Ornelas Enterprises Inc. in Hillsboro
- ◆ For 50 to 249 employees: Deloitte & Touche LLP in Portland
- ◆ For 250 to 999 employees: North Lincoln Hospital in Lincoln City
- ◆ For 1,000 and up: Sequent Computer Systems Inc. in Beaverton
- ◆ For government: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality in Portland