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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Human Resource Executive® Health & Benefits Leadership Conference & Expo Focuses on Healthcare Reform for Employers

Palm Beach Gardens, FL – December 18, 2012 – Human Resource Executive® Health & Benefits Leadership Conference & Expo, a new upper-level strategic health and benefits event, will dedicate five of its sessions to helping benefits leaders develop strategies, understand leading-edge thinking and discover what the smartest minds in the business are doing to overcome the many challenges they will face when trying to change employees' behaviors and uphold the requirements of the Affordable Care Act. The innovative event, being held April 22 - 24, 2013 at Aria Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, will provide a candid and thought-provoking conversation about successes and failures, as well as strategies that are still being tested. Sessions will feature valuable insight and new approaches from leading companies and thought leaders such as:

- Ron Leopold, Benefits trends expert and thought leader in health and productivity
- Ed Bray, Director, Employee Benefits, Hawaiian Airlines
- Catherine Dodd, PhD, RN, Director of the San Francisco Health Service System
- Andrew Gold, VP, Total Rewards, Pitney Bowes
- Carol Harnett, Healthcare and employee benefits consultant, writer for Human Resource Executive®
- Dr. David Lansky, President and CEO of the Pacific Business Group on Health
- Marisa Milton, Vice President, HR Policy, Strategy & Compliance, Marriott International, Inc.
- Lesley Leiserson, Director, Benefits, The Home Depot

The program also features top consulting and advisory firms such as ADP, Aon Hewitt, Atlas Insurance Agency, Extend Health, Mercer and Towers Watson.

“Nearly all benefits decisions are being influenced by health care reform. But, at the Health & Benefits Leadership Conference, you won't hear the same mundane run-through of healthcare reform requirements,” said Jennifer Benz, Conference Program Chair and founder and chief strategist of Benz Communications. “You will hear the new ideas and innovative practices of the most forward-thinking people and companies’ – those who are creating new solutions and addressing healthcare reform strategically.”

The United States spends more money on healthcare than any other country, but those expenditures haven't necessarily produced better outcomes. Dramatic changes, however, are beginning to occur across the country to change that situation, propelled by employer purchasing and innovation. New plan designs, programs and provider networks are evolving because of healthcare reform. The Affordable Care Act will require employers to comply with new regulations while offering the best healthcare to its employees. By 2014 more than 15 provisions will be required, including mandates for both individuals and employers. The **Health & Benefits Leadership Conference** Healthcare Reform sessions are designed to help employers successfully provide quality and affordable healthcare.

From open enrollment to adoption of healthcare consumerism, to helping employees eat better and move more while highlighting promising models, respected leaders will candidly discuss how their organizations are approaching these issues and positioning themselves for success. Breakout sessions focused on healthcare reform will provide benefits professionals with guidance from industry experts who are on the forefront of healthcare evolution.

Knowledge shared during sessions will cover every aspect of the new law to help attendees successfully navigate through 2013 and 2014. Companies such as Tower Watson will provide an insider's perspective on what major employers are planning and how to apply those tactics to overall strategies. They will also share the latest thinking and approaches to value-based plans, account-based plans and others aligned with emerging care models and innovative strategies.

Additionally, the conference will offer six other tracks: Strategic View, Health & Wellness, Employee Engagement, Absence Management, Voluntary Benefits and Financial Security.

The **Health & Benefits Leadership Conference** will discuss more than a dozen employer case studies from large companies and small businesses including:

- American Express
- Big Lots
- Carlson
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Comcast
- H-E-B
- Ingersoll Rand
- Intel
- Kaiser Permanente
- Leviton
- Life Technologies
- MGM Resorts
- NextEra Energy, Inc.
- Symantec
- Vanguard
- Walgreens
- Microsoft

For more details and the full program, please visit www.BenefitsConf.com.

The **Health & Benefits Leadership Conference** is designed for both private- and public-sector executives including CHROs, CEOs, COOs, SVPs, VPs, CFOs, plus Directors of HR, Health and Benefits, Compensation and Benefits. Industry professionals are encouraged to register early to save \$150.00 off the standard rate. To register, please visit www.BenefitsConf.com/register or call 1-800-727-1227. For media inquiries please contact Renette Fortune at 561-622-6520, Ext. 8674 or email rfortune@lrp.com.

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