



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clarkston Consulting Has Been Ranked No. 4 of the Top 10 Employers in the First Annual "Best Employers in North Carolina" Competition

DURHAM, NC - May 10, 2005. Clarkston Consulting, a global management and technology consulting firm, today announced that the company has been ranked No. 4 in the first "Best Employers in North Carolina" competition compiled by the Best Companies Group, Inc. The competition was an initiative to motivate companies in North Carolina to focus, measure and move their workplace environments towards excellence. The selection process included an assessment of each company's employee policies and procedures as well as the results of a confidential employee survey.

Headquartered in Durham, NC, Clarkston was recognized for its world-class benefits, staff care, and recognition and reward programs. Of particular note were the company's service anniversary reward vacation at an employee's three and six-year tenure dates. More than 180 employees have reaped this benefit over the last 10 years. In addition, their bi-annual company meetings bring employees and their families together in key tourist destinations to recognize global project teams with the "Triple Crown Awards" categorized by consulting excellence, business innovation, and client business value.

The foremost guiding principles of the firm are brilliant client service and high employee satisfaction. Being recognized as a North Carolina top employer further demonstrates our commitment to employee growth and development here and in other key global locations. In addition, Clarkston maintains a five-year average client satisfaction rating of 94% or greater as measured annually by The Conference Board and has been recognized by key North Carolina clients such as Wyeth, Coty, Unilever, DSM Pharmaceuticals, and Novozymes.

Carol Gillespie, Managing Partner Human Resources stated, "Our employees are the heart of our company. We want to recognize them for their contributions and provide continuous opportunities for personal growth and development. Taking care of our people and our clients are the two things we care about most." As a mid-size company, Clarkston provides a more employee-intimate team environment that fosters long-term relationships among its employees and clients.

Clarkston has achieved similar successes, having recently been recognized by CUBIC (Corporate University Best In Class) in both 2003 and 2004 for its outstanding corporate university training program and previously as a Platinum Rule(tm) award winner by the Triangle



Business Journal, procuring top honors in the categories of People Development and Incentives, Awards, and Recognitions.

Tom Finegan, chairman and CEO of Clarkston Consulting, stated, "We have strived to build a high performing culture that rewards outstanding contributions and innovative ideas. Investing in our people and providing a rewarding and stimulating environment for our stewards continues to support our growth as a highly effective and sought after consulting firm."

Other leading employers that Clarkston is proud to be amongst on the Top10 list were: SAS Institute, Inc., Microsoft Corp., SpectraSite Communications, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Gilead Sciences, Inc., Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Targacept, Inc., Novozymes North America Inc., and The Biltmore Company.

About Clarkston Consulting

Clarkston Consulting is a global management and technology consulting firm that provides strategic business solutions for clients within the life sciences and consumer products industries worldwide. These market leaders turn to Clarkston to help them bridge the gap between strategy and execution to sustain a competitive advantage. Clarkston is a sought-after business partner because of its recognized industry thought-leadership and superior client relationships, as measured by The Conference Board's survey on client satisfaction. For more information, visit www.clarkstonconsulting.com.

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