

February 20, 2007

Contact: Dori Estrella  
952-345-4143  
destrella@certespros.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Certes Financial Pros Wins the 2007 Minnesota Work-Life Champions™ Award for Small-sized Companies Category**

*St. Louis Park-based company honored for championing healthy work-life balance*

**MINNEAPOLIS—Feb. 20, 2007**—Certes Financial Pros, a provider of financial staffing to Twin Cities companies needing interim, project, and permanent staffing support, was recently honored with the 2007 Work-Life Champions award in the category of 50-249 employees.

Certes was spotlighted as being a Minnesota business that implements programs and practices that create a flexible and supportive workplace. The Awards were sponsored by The Minnesota Work-Life Champions Partnership, a group of local chambers of commerce, business and professional associations, foundations, and non-profit, work-life advocacy organizations committed to making Minnesota's employers the strongest in the nation.

“We are honored to receive this prestigious award. We have learned that by focusing on meeting our employees' work/life balance needs we have cultivated a loyal and productive employee base which has been amazing for both our bottom line and our culture. It turns out, you can have it all,” says Karen Oman, CEO and Certes founder.

“We know that financial professionals aren't used to hearing that their needs come first,” adds Karen. “We try to treat our employees more like sales people when it comes to perks. One benefit we offer our employees is the free use of Certes' five vacation homes around the country.” Locations include: Sanibel and Fort Meyers, Florida; Park City, Utah; Nisswa, Minnesota; and Manhattan Beach, California.

Applicants of the Work-Life Champions award were evaluated based on a survey that was administered to a random sampling of employees from each company. “We were excited to see so many of this year's applicants focusing on flexibility,” said Susan Seitel, president of WFC Resources, a partner organization in the Minnesota Work-Life Champions Awards project. “Studies keep proving that giving employees more control over their schedules and the flexibility to handle personal responsibilities raises productivity and increases engagement. Minnesota companies are obviously getting the

message. All of our winners this year have shown that they respect employees as whole people, and employees told us on their surveys how important that is to them and how grateful they are."

For more information about Certes Financial Pros, contact Dori Estrella at 952-345-4143 or visit [www.certespros.com](http://www.certespros.com).

### **About Certes Financial Pros**

Started by Karen Oman in 1994, Certes Financial Pros, a provider of financial staffing to Twin Cities companies needing interim, project, and permanent staffing support is based in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, and has up to 200 employees. Certes employees benefit from the unique culture, including outstanding benefits and work-life balance philosophies.

Certes Financial Pros and/or CEO Karen Oman have an impressive list of other industry awards including:

- *Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year* – Business Services, Minnesota and Dakotas
- National Best Employer, Entrepreneurial Excellence Awards, *Working Woman Magazine*
- Woman Business Owner of the Year, *National Association of Women Business Owners, Minnesota Chapter*
- One of the Ten Best Bosses, *Fortune Small Business*
- *Business Journal Women in Business Industry Leader Award*
- *Finance and Commerce Top Women in Finance Award*