

For Immediate Release
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UT Makes the Best Workplaces for Commuters 2006 List of Colleges and Universities

KNOXVILLE – The University of Tennessee at Knoxville has just been recognized by Best Workplaces for CommutersSM with their release of the 2006 List of Colleges and Universities. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes 72 institutions of higher education that have made this first annual list of Best Workplaces for Commuters. Visit www.bwc.org for the full list.

The Best Workplaces for CommutersSM program recognizes employers whose commuter benefits reach the *National Standard of Excellence*. Participating companies earn the designation "Best Workplaces for CommutersSM"—a mark of excellence for environmentally and employee-friendly organizations. To earn the designation, employers must provide at least a \$30 per month transit or vanpool benefit in addition to participating in a commuter program such as the Knoxville Regional Smart Trips program. The University of Tennessee provides their employees, both faculty and staff, with the opportunity to purchase semester KAT bus passes for only \$35 for spring and fall semesters and \$20 for the summer semester. UT students are also eligible for the same inexpensive semester bus passes as faculty and staff.

The University of Tennessee is one of two area employers with the Best Workplaces for CommutersSM designation. The Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission has also recently received the designation.

Smart Trips has been working with the University over the past two years to provide an employee commuter program that focuses on the over 6,200 faculty and staff that work at the Knoxville area. The Smart Trips program is offered in conjunction with the KAT services already provided throughout the UT campus and the Knoxville area.

Smart Trips works with employers throughout the East Tennessee non-attainment region to help develop commuter programs for employees. These programs encourage employees to use alternative transportation to get to work, such as carpool, vanpool, taking the KAT bus, bicycling or walking. By using alternative transportation, commuters can help to reduce the number of drive-alone miles, which saves them money and helps to lessen air pollution. For more information on Smart Trips or becoming one of our employers, visit www.knoxsmarttrips.org.

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Contact:
Jill Wolverton, Employer Outreach Coordinator
Smart Trips, Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization
Phone: 215-2916
Email: jill.wolverton@knoxtrans.org