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Eastridge Executives Discuss Employment Issues at Business Roundtable

Participants Note Changes in Recruiting and Employment Trends Due to Economy

SAN DIEGO – October 29, 2010 – The *San Diego Daily Transcript* invited eight local business leaders on October 15th to a roundtable discussion on the latest employment trends, including two Eastridge presidents, Seth Stein and Nanci Porter. The panel, moderated by *Daily Transcript* Executive Editor George Chamberlin, focused on the challenges facing both employers and job-search candidates in the lackluster economy.

The group agreed that despite high unemployment, employers were still hard-pressed to fill jobs requiring niche skill sets. Seth Stein is the president of the Abbott Staffing Group, a subsidiary of the Eastridge Group of Staffing Companies. He cited an analogy he recently read that compared the situation facing employers to looking for a “needle in a hay stack.” He pointed out that the needle – like the perfect hire - was still difficult to locate, even if high unemployment meant there was significantly “more hay” to sift through.

Nanci Porter is the President of Eastridge InfoTech, a leading IT staffing agency. She noted a rising interest by employers to hire full time employees in specific areas. She said that despite the difficult economy, she is seeing job candidates receive multiple offers in quick succession. However, Porter says she frequently sees current employees frustrated by rising expectations at their employers. Downsizing has meant larger workloads for remaining employees, whose compensation has not risen proportionately.

Responding to this point, Suzanne Zoumaras, Vice President of Human Resources at Entropic Communications told the roundtable that at any given time 40 percent of employees are looking for another job. Nevertheless, a much smaller percentage will actually leave their current employer.

Porter highlighted another workplace trend — the increasing requests by individuals to work as independent contractors. While there has been an upsurge in interest, Porter cautions that such contractor status does not fit all employment situations because of legislation governing payroll classification. Stein noted that Eastridge's sister company, Secure Talent, assists clients in managing such 1099 Compliance issues (www.securetalent.com).

To read more about the roundtable, please see the *Daily Transcript's* coverage, which appeared in both its Monday, October 18, and Wednesday, October 20, issues.

About The Eastridge Group

Founded in 1972, The Eastridge Group of Staffing Companies is a privately held staffing enterprise headquartered in San Diego with offices in multiple locations across six states, nationwide. With nearly four decades of expertise and experience in the staffing industry and 23,000 employee placements annually, Eastridge operates with a driving purpose to provide people with opportunities and enrichment through work. Eastridge's specialized staffing divisions each serve a specific industry.

Divisions of Eastridge include Abbott Staffing Group, Eastridge InfoTech, TheraStaff, Medical Resources Staffing Services, Pharmacy Placement Professionals, Contractors & Builders, Eastridge Administrative Staffing, Convention Staffing Solutions, Eastridge Direct-Hire, Eastridge InQ Contact Center Specialists, Eastridge Light Industrial, Essential Discovery, Exclusively Legal, HR Solutions, Green Talent Staffing, T3 Staffing and Wired Talent. For more information, visit www.eastridgegroup.com.

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