



Holly Morello of PRTC presents the Gold Level Employer award to representatives from George Mason University.



Holly Morello of PRTC presents the Silver Level Employer award to representatives from IKEA.

PRTC Recognizes Two Area Employers for Supporting Programs for Commuters

February 14, 2011 – Omni SmartCommute, a program of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) recently presented awards to two companies in the agency's service area for the variety of commuter benefits and programs they offer their employees. Employers in the Prince William County area can receive free commuter consultations through Omni SmartCommute.

The employers recognized by Omni SmartCommute are:

***George Mason University's** (GMU) Prince William campus, which achieved the status of Gold Level employer; and

***IKEA's** Woodbridge store, which was honored as a Silver Level employer.

To meet the Gold Level standard, employers must offer at least four different benefits or programs to improve their employees' commutes and must encourage alternatives to driving alone. Suggested benefits and programs include starting a telework program, providing preferential parking for carpools and vanpools, offering flextime or compressed workweeks, and installing shower facilities for bicyclists and walkers.

For example, GMU's Prince William campus has no direct form of public transportation, so the university operates a shuttle bus system that links the Prince William and Fairfax campuses and allows connections to PRTC buses in Manassas. In addition, staff members at all campuses are eligible for the monthly federal transit benefit of up to \$230.

As a Silver Level employer, IKEA currently offers three different benefits or programs including bike racks and shower facilities.

"By encouraging alternatives to driving alone, these employers have increased employee satisfaction while helping to reduce traffic congestion," said Sam Salkin, employer services representative at Omni SmartCommute.

To speak with Omni SmartCommute about helping your employees with their commutes, call (202) 293-1391.