



RECOGNITION **CHANGES** EVERYTHING

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THARPEROBBS EARNs RANKING ON PRESTIGIOUS *INC.* MAGAZINE 500|5000 LIST**

*Annual Inc. List Honors America's Fastest-Growing Private Companies*

**STATESVILLE, N.C., October 4, 2010** – TharpeRobbins, a global leader in the managed employee reward and recognition industry, has received a prestigious level of recognition from *Inc.* Magazine in its fourth annual exclusive list of America's fastest-growing private companies. With an impressive growth rate of 92%, TharpeRobbins has joined the prestigious list of top 5000 companies with a first-time ranking of 2,574.

The list represents a comprehensive look at one of the most important segments of the economy, America's independent entrepreneurs.

"The leaders of the companies on this year's *Inc.* 5000 have figured out how to grow their businesses during the recent recession," says *Inc.* president Bob LaPointe. "The 2010 *Inc.* 5000 showcases a particularly hardy group of entrepreneurs."

"We are extremely pleased to be included in this prestigious list. Recognitions like this help keep us motivated and moving forward," says Brett Tharpe, CEO of TharpeRobbins. "This list validates our continued success in spite of the economy. With our current growth rate, we look forward to moving up on next year's list."

Earlier this year, TharpeRobbins partnered with Gridiron Capital, LLC to leverage the company's position as a premier brand in the recognition industry, in order to pursue additional growth opportunities. TharpeRobbins is a leader and an innovator in the recognition industry, with a client list including many of the world's largest corporations. The company is responsible for a number of industry firsts, from the introduction of consumer focused award offerings, to the development of generational merchandising™, and the application of technology to improve program results.

The 2010 *Inc.* 500|5000 list is ranked according to percentage revenue growth when comparing 2006 to 2009. Complete results of the *Inc.* 5000, including company profiles and an interactive database that can be sorted by industry, region, and other criteria, can be found at [www.inc.com/5000](http://www.inc.com/5000).

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### **About TharpeRobbins**

For more than 100 years, TharpeRobbins' rich history as an innovator has covered the breadth of managed reward and recognition programs. The company fosters superior performance by creating new standards for employee recognition and rewards through imaginative solutions, cutting edge programs, flawless execution, professional service and world-class technology. TharpeRobbins built its reputation on developing customized programs to help clients reach their employee attraction and retention goals. The company is passionate about recognition because they know that an engaged workforce produces satisfied customers, which in turn produces more business. With TharpeRobbins, Recognition Changes Everything.

The privately-held TharpeRobbins was created through the February 2007 merger of The Robbins Company, founded in 1892, and The Tharpe Company Inc., founded in 1981. The company headquarters are located on a 25-acre campus in Statesville, N.C. and include an extensive showroom and state-of-the-art distribution facility. The ISO-certified Attleboro, Mass., operations include creative services, software development and jewelry manufacturing. Find out more at [www.tharperobbins.com](http://www.tharperobbins.com)

### **About Inc. Magazine**

Founded in 1979 and acquired in 2005 by Mansueto Ventures LLC, *Inc.* is the only major business magazine dedicated exclusively to owners and managers of growing private companies that delivers real solutions for today's innovative company builders. With a total paid circulation of 712,647, *Inc.* provides hands-on tools and market-tested strategies for managing people, finances, sales, marketing, and technology. Learn more at [www.inc.com](http://www.inc.com).

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