

**Contact:**

Christie Nye  
pr@christienye.com  
503-806-3029



or

Deborah Jeffries, PHR  
HR Answers, Inc.  
503-692-0473

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**Leading Regional Consulting Firm HR Northwest Merges with  
National Company HR Answers, Inc.**

*Combined companies to be known as HR Answers, Inc.*

Tualatin, Ore. – HR Northwest, a leading regional human resources consulting company, announced today it has merged with HR Answers, Inc., a national producer of specialty HR products and services, effective January 1, 2003. Since 1994 there have been two companies owned and operated by founder and President Judy Clark. The combined companies now form the largest independently owned human resource firm in the Northwest and will take the name of HR Answers, Inc. Given the current business climate in Portland, this move by the management team of HR Answers, Inc. demonstrates an investment in future growth.

HR Northwest was founded in 1985 as strictly a regional consulting operation, while HR Answers, Inc. was created in 1994 as a national firm producing specialty HR services and products. Initially, each firm sold to different clients in entirely different markets. As the needs of HR professionals and organizations changed, the business models of the two firms grew closer together. Merging the companies at this time allows the consolidated management team to focus on strategic plans for expansion.

“Combining the companies allows us to streamline operations and provide more value to all of our clients through additional products and services,” said HR Answers, Inc. CEO and Founder Judy Clark. “We’re still the same company our clients know and trust, the only visible change is the name.”

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Portland: 7672 SW Mohawk St. Tualatin, OR 97062 (503) 692-0473  
Puget Sound: 700 108<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Ste. 202 Bellevue, WA 98004 (425) 454-6170  
Willamette Valley: 7287 Park Terrace Dr. NE, Ste. 101 Keizer, OR 97303 (503) 463-7269  
**[www.hranswers.com](http://www.hranswers.com)**

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The company continues to operate out of the Tualatin, Ore. headquarters that house 32 employees. HR Answers, Inc. will continue to provide organizations in all industries with the same consulting and specialty services as it has over the past 18 years. The merger brings the power of a well known regional consulting firm together with the a national company known for being first to market with innovative human resources products and services.

"Adopting the name HR Answers, Inc. best suits the company's strategic direction and future plans for growth," Clark continued. "We want to be *the HR answer*, which cannot be limited to the Northwest."

### **About HR Answers, Inc.:**

HR Answers, Inc. is the largest independently owned human resource firm in the Northwest, serving both regional and national clients. Founded in 1985, the company serves organizations in all industries and assists in public and private sectors, as well as non-profits. The company was first-to-market with its revolutionary online employee compensation tool SalarySource ([www.salarysource.com](http://www.salarysource.com)). Consultants of HR Answers, Inc. assist more than 3,000 current clients nationwide in such areas as compensation program design and benefit plan assessment, as well as various compliance issues, performance management, training, and labor relations. Specialty products include HR Flipcards, Train-the-Trainer Notebooks, and employment compliance packets. Please visit [www.hrnorthwest.com](http://www.hrnorthwest.com) or [www.hranswers.com](http://www.hranswers.com) for more information.

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