

## **PetroQuest Energy and LHC Group named to *Forbes* top 10**

**Lafayette, LA**— Two Lafayette-based companies have been listed in the top 10 of *Forbes* magazine's top 200 small businesses. PetroQuest Energy is ranked 6th and LHC Group is ranked 8th. This is the second consecutive year LHC has been in the top 10 and the first for PetroQuest Energy.

To qualify for the list, companies must be publicly traded, have sales between \$5 million and \$750 million and a stock price of \$5 as of September 29. The ranking is based on return on equity, sales growth and profit growth over the past 12 months and over five years. Stock performance in relation to industry peers is also reviewed.

"You expect larger metropolitan areas to have multiple businesses named to a list like this. Having two companies identified in the top 10 is reflective of Lafayette's entrepreneurial spirit and success," says Gregg Gothreaux, LEDA President and CEO. "PetroQuest and LHC also illustrate the diversification of Lafayette's economy, as healthcare and energy are two of Lafayette and Acadiana's largest industries."

Forbes reports that PetroQuest has increased in sales an average of 53% annually since it went public in 1999.

"To be recognized by *Forbes* is truly a honor," says Charles T. Goodson, PetroQuest Energy Chairman, CEO and President. "In 2003 we made a strategic decision to diversify our existing Gulf Coast assets with long-lived resource plays. Being included in this list is a testament that we are successfully executing our balanced portfolio approach."

LHC bought 30 home health companies in the last year and has 5,000 employees in 14 states, according to the magazine.

"It is a great privilege for our company to be included by *Forbes* in their ranking that recognizes excellence in both short- and long-term performance" says Keith Myers, LHC Group CEO. "We are especially honored to be ranked in the top 10 for the second straight year. We are very excited about our prospects as we work to expand our service network and continue to produce sound financial results."

"Lafayette is the home of many world-class businesses, and we know that many of our best opportunities for attracting jobs and keeping our young people here come from home-grown businesses, says Joey Durel, City-Parish President. "We are very proud of Petroquest and LHC Group for achieving this ranking and for all that they do in our community."

Lafayette also has locations of four retailers named in the list: Jos. A. Bank (47), Buckle (52), Buffalo Wild Wings (67), and Hibbett Sporting Goods (119).

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