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BEST PLACES TO WORK

RBF Consulting

Founded: 1944

Headquartered: Irvine

Leaders: Co-Presidents Robert Kallenbaugh and James E. McDonald

Number of Employees: 1,021 (438 in Irvine)

Revenue: \$152 million

Best Perk: A family-focused place to build a long-term career

Anyone who drives around Orange County for any length of time will see the work of RBF Consulting.

The Irvine-based engineering firm completed the I-5 and I-405 interchange known as the El Toro “Y,” and the Eastern Transportation Corridor (the 241 toll road), and has a legacy of 60 years of work with the Irvine Company.

Next on the long list of projects that have pushed its revenues past \$150 million annually: planning for the southern extension of the Foothill (241) toll road.

RBF employees say they often get a satisfied feeling of “I built that!” as they are out and about. That feeling of pride is just one of a long list of perks that comes with working for the privately-held firm.

The company offers exceptional benefits: a generous 401(k) matching program and profit sharing, and it pays 100% of the health insurance premiums for employees.

It invests in employees through an extensive in-house training

144 employees have stayed with RBF for at least 10 years... 86 have been there for at least 15.

HOW COOL IS YOUR COMPANY?



Photo by MARK SAVAGE

program, and reimburses the full cost of tuition for employees who continue their education at universities or technical schools.

Then there is the company culture, which is fun, creative and family-centered. RBF fosters this with everything from sporting events and monthly barbeques to half-day Fridays all summer long.

In a competitive industry where talent is at a premium, 144 employees have stayed with RBF for at least 10 years and 86 have been there for at least 15 years, say RBF officials.

Wendy Jones, 23, began working at RBF as a corporate affairs assistant one year ago after interning at the firm during college.

While some of her college buddies have gone through three jobs since then, Jones loves her career, helping to plan RBF's long list of company-sponsored social events – holiday parties, golf and tennis tournaments, camping trips and other team-building activities.

One of her favorite events was a Winter Olympics-themed barbeque this winter, where engineers were challenged to build a cart that could safely carry an egg down a huge run.”

“I'm so lucky to have walked into this company, because they treat their people so well,” says Jones. “You have to prove yourself, but once you do, they give you the opportunities to grow.” OCM

—By Kelly St. John

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