



# MERIT

resources

...we make employment easy

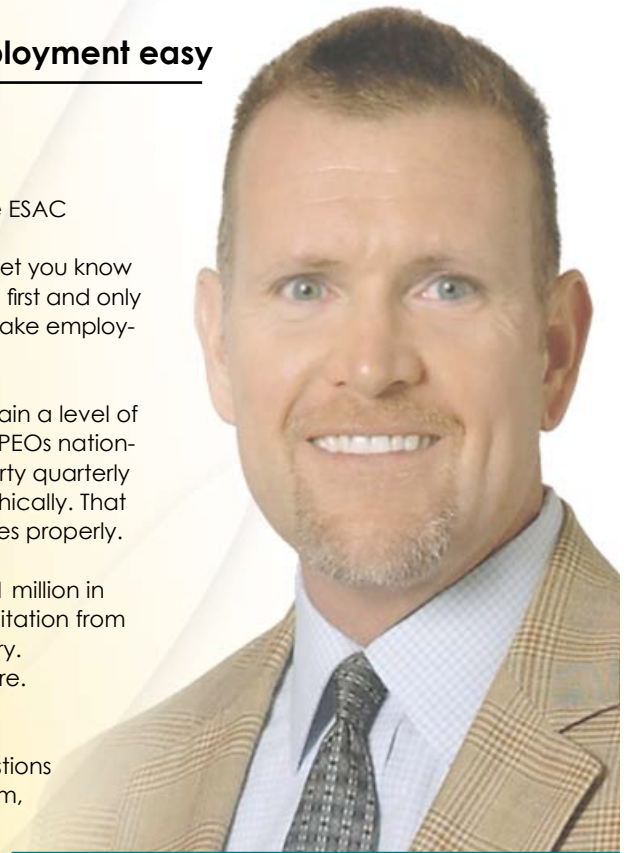
I am extremely proud to announce that Merit Resources has received accreditation from the Employer Services Assurance Corporation, or the ESAC

Please see the press release below for details, but I wanted to personally let you know about this important achievement, express how excited we are to be the first and only lowa-based PEO to achieve accreditation, and explain how it helps us make employment easy for you.

First, accreditation lets you know that Merit has achieved and will maintain a level of professionalism and responsibility that places us in the elite top 4% of all PEOs nationwide. To maintain accreditation, we must demonstrate through third-party quarterly audits that we are maintaining high standards financially, legally and ethically. That means you can be confident Merit is handling your employment activities properly.

Second, it provides you with financial assurance, providing a total of \$11 million in surety bonds protecting the funds you entrust us with every day. Accreditation from the ESAC in the PEO industry is like FDIC protection in the banking industry. It provides financial protection to you in the unlikely event of a PEO failure.

We appreciate the trust you place in us every day, and hope that this announcement demonstrates our commitment to you. If you have questions or comments I encourage you to contact your Merit Client Services Team, visit [www.esacorp.com](http://www.esacorp.com), or e-mail [info@meritresources.com](mailto:info@meritresources.com).



**Joel Duncan**  
President/CEO

## **Merit Resources Earns Prestigious National Accreditation**

*Merit Resources Earns ESAC Accreditation for Professional Employer Organization (PEO)*

Des Moines, IA – The Employer Services Assurance Corporation (ESAC) bestowed prestigious industry recognition upon Des Moines-based, Merit Resources. ESAC accreditation acknowledges Merit Resources' achieving the highest levels for specific performance practices and signifies that the company continuously meets the pinnacle of standards applied to firms in the \$51 billion industry. This PEO industry assurance program parallels similar programs such as the FDIC for the banking industry, SIPC for the securities industry, and the state insurance guaranty associations for the insurance industry. Merit Resources is the only ESAC accredited PEO with Iowa based headquarters and ownership.

"ESAC accreditation ensures our clients and employees that Merit Resources meets the highest standards applied to firms in the PEO industry," says Joel Duncan, Merit Resources CEO & President. "Accreditation is difficult to attain, and places Merit solidly among the top 3% nationally of PEOs in terms of financial, professional and ethical accountability."

As an ESAC-Accredited Professional Employer Organization (PEO), Merit Resources is backed by financial assurance through ESAC's Client Assurance Program, consisting of an individual \$1 million surety bond plus a \$10 million excess bond. The program provides reimbursement to clients, worksite employees, taxing authorities and insurers in the unlikely event of a PEO default in paying wages, payroll taxes, workers compensation and benefit premiums.