

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ADVANTAGE CREDIT RANKS FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR
ON THE INC. 500 LIST**

PENSACOLA, FL, October 15, 2001 -- Advantage Credit, based in Pensacola,

has been named one of the fastest-growing companies in the country for the third consecutive year by *Inc.* magazine. *Inc.* today released its annual ranking of the *Inc. 500*, the comprehensive guide to America's fastest-growing private companies.

For the 2001 *Inc.* listing, Advantage Credit ranked #249, with a 5-year growth rate of 1,165%. In 1999, Advantage Credit broke into the *Inc. 500* for the first time with 952% growth over the preceding 5 years. In 2000 year, the company moved up to #170 from #315, with a 5-year growth rate of 1,380%.

Founder & CEO Tim Handley credits the increasing growth to the company's technological improvements and its motivated colleagues. "We are starting to see the effects of last year's SBA investment in our data center along with key staff additions. As usual, our team tries harder, works smarter, plays harder than most in the world of commerce. Satisfied colleagues & a low turnover rate equate to high customer satisfaction, which means continued growth."

Handley also expressed his personal satisfaction of being included on the illustrious ranking. "Being on the *Inc. 500* was a goal from the beginning. I used to call the companies on the list in my previous job selling computer supplies and always offered hearty congratulations to the folks who made it. I really love that we've hit the list 3 years in a row—and will be on the list again next year based on this year's current growth," he added.

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The *Inc. 500*, published this year on October 17th, is an exclusive report on the companies and CEOs who are changing the face of American business. Noteworthy alumni include such household corporate names as Microsoft, Timberland, Dominos Pizza and Oracle

To be eligible for the *Inc. 500*, companies have to be independent and privately held through 2000, have at least \$200,000 in sales in the base year (1996), and their 2000 sales must have exceeded their 1999 sales.

Founded in 1991, Advantage Credit is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Advantage Plaza, Inc. The company provides credit reports and services to mortgage brokers and other markets. Advantage Hire is also subsidiary of Advantage Plaza (background reports for human resources purposes) and can be found at www.advantagehire.net.

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