



**ILPEX**

**Recognition Program**

*Join a Class of Distinction*



Your Resource for Growth through Enterprise Excellence

## OUR PURPOSE

IMEC leverages the Baldrige Excellence Framework to guide Illinois organizations to higher levels of performance. The Framework is a validated, leading edge model for leadership and drives improvement and innovation where it is needed most.

### Using the Baldrige Excellence Framework will:

- ★ Create a strategic guide for measuring success
- ★ Develop in-house technical experts
- ★ Benchmark against high performing organizations in any industry
- ★ Deliver objective feedback on strengths and opportunities for improvement
- ★ Engage leadership in a systematic approach
- ★ Create a focus on customer engagement

*“ To remain relevant and to be constantly looking at ways to improve the organization, the Baldrige Criteria have really helped stretch our imaginations as well as our service delivery. ”*

*Brenda Yarnell, President/CEO – United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln (Springfield, IL)  
Recipient, ILPEX Gold Award for Achievement of Excellence*

## OUR COMMITMENT

To make Illinois organizations more competitive, create jobs and improve communities, IMEC supports organizations across all industries through their performance improvement process. The Baldrige Excellence Framework is effective for any industry, with a focus on Manufacturing, Education, Service, Health Care, Government, and Nonprofits.

As the Illinois-based Baldrige award program, the ILPEX Recognition Program is dedicated to serving you throughout the performance improvement process. IMEC offers levels of guidance from an internal review to a collaborative, expert-led organizational assessment. As your preferred resource for growth and enterprise excellence, IMEC also offers training and support to help you address the Baldrige Criteria from Leadership to Results.



# YOUR ROADMAP TO A COMPETITIVE FUTURE

IMEC assists organizations across all industries with process improvement strategies and coaching to develop an organizational foundation for success. This facilitated sequence is recommended for organizations pursuing distinction through the ILPEX Recognition Program.



**Develop Expertise:** Designate staff to attend training sessions on the Baldrige Excellence Framework. Further prepare your organization by selecting staff to become ILPEX Examiners.



**Assess your Readiness:** Gauge your organization's baseline through a basic assessment, the Baldrige Express survey, or a facilitated deep-dive approach.

## **Commit to the Criteria:**

Define what is important to your organization and complete the Interest in Excellence Application.



## **Analyze Examiner Feedback:**

Review constructive feedback on your Interest in Excellence Application, and identify how to improve operations. Make organizational improvements to inform your strategic guide for success and future ILPEX Award application.



**Improve Internal Work Processes:** Using your Examiner Feedback Report as a strategic guide for success, determine areas in which to make continued performance improvements. Assessing your strengths and opportunities for improvement provides an introspective and active look at your organization.



**Apply for the ILPEX Award:** Engage leadership, staff, board members and customers to complete the full assessment of your organization based on the Baldrige Excellence Framework.



## **Obtain Unparalleled Feedback:**

Host an Examiner Team at your facility for on-site interviews with key organizational representatives.



## **Develop an Improvement Strategy:**

Review feedback from the Examiner Team on your ILPEX Award for Excellence application and Site Visit, and identify how to improve operations.



## **Strive for Success:**

Performance improvement is an on-going process that involves re-assessment, feedback and responding to opportunities for progress.



# A CLASS OF DISTINCTION

171 AWARD RECIPIENTS SINCE 1994



14 Gold

Awards for Achievement of Excellence



46 Silver

Awards for Progress toward Excellence



111 Bronze

Awards for Commitment to Excellence

# A CLASS OF EXPERTS

**1,187 ILPEX Examiners**, quality-driven professionals who collaborate to assess the organizations that apply for the annual ILPEX Awards for Excellence.



Recognition Program

---

*// The Baldrige Criteria is the best compilation of elements that organizations can use as a template to develop approaches to improve overall organizational effectiveness and results. //*

*Tom Tester, Plant Manager –  
MTM Recognition (Princeton, IL)  
ILPEX Senior Examiner*

---

**Leadership**

---

**Strategy**

---

**Customer**

---

**Measurement, Analysis &  
Knowledge Management**

---

**Workforce**

---

**Operation**

---

**Results**

# GET INVOLVED WITH THE ILPEX RECOGNITION PROGRAM

## Benefits of Participation

### BUILD CAPABILITY

Participate as Examiners

- » Gain insights into successful benchmarking techniques
- » Build knowledge for identifying organizational strengths and opportunities for improvement
- » Participate in site visits with high-performing organizations, gaining hands-on application of the Baldrige Excellence Framework within different industries
- » Develop an in-house Baldrige expertise
- » Be part of a state-wide professional network of peers

### GAIN INITIAL FEEDBACK

Submit your Interest in Excellence Application

- » Address the question “What is important to our organization?”
- » Demonstrate a commitment to performance improvement to internal and external customers
- » Receive constructive, evidence-based feedback from Examiner teams in relevant industries

### PURSUE DISTINCTION

Submit your ILPEX Award for Excellence application

- » **Answer three critical questions:** 1. What is important to your organization? 2. How do you do what you do? 3. Were you successful?
- » Develop an integrated management framework informed by input from ILPEX Examiners, staff, board members and customers, which provide a comprehensive review of organizational practices, based upon benchmarking against high-performing organizations.
- » Receive constructive, evidence-based feedback by teams in relevant industries
- » Demonstrate a commitment to excellence with an approach to achieving results