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American College of Healthcare Executives Awarded 2015 Silver Award for “Progress toward Excellence” from Illinois Performance Excellence

Peoria, Ill. – December 14, 2015 – Illinois Performance Excellence announces American College of Healthcare Executives of Chicago, IL is a recipient of the 2015 Silver Award for “Progress toward Excellence” for demonstrating effective, systematic, well-deployed approaches that respond to the multiple requirements to most of the Criteria.

“This recognition of ACHE’s continued progress is welcome and encouraging,” said Deborah J. Bowen, President and CEO of the American College of Healthcare Executives. “We have made great progress in more deeply embedding improvement and excellence in every area. We aren’t just applying for an award, we are integrating a framework for excellence into the way we operate and serve our members and other customers every day.”

Recipients of the ILPEX Silver Award go to those organizations which have demonstrated effective, systematic, well-deployed approaches that respond to the multiple requirements to most of the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence.

The American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) is an international professional society of 40,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE’s mission is to advance our members and healthcare management excellence. ACHE offers its prestigious FACHE® credential, signifying board certification in healthcare management. ACHE’s established network of 80 chapters provides access to networking, education and career development at the local level. In addition, ACHE is known for its magazine, *Healthcare Executive*, and its career development and public policy programs. Through such efforts, ACHE works toward its vision of being the preeminent professional society for healthcare executives dedicated to improving health. The Foundation of the American College of Healthcare Executives was established to further advance healthcare management excellence through education and research. The Foundation of ACHE is known for its educational programs—including the annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership, which draws more than 4,000 participants—and groundbreaking research. Its publishing division, Health Administration Press, is one of the largest publishers of books and journals on health services management including textbooks for college and university courses.

“Congratulations to the American College of Healthcare Executives and all of its employees for its dedication to focused improvement on their journey to excellence,” says David Boulay, Executive Director of Illinois Performance Excellence. “ACHE has proven that committing to the criteria and evolving their methodologies and drive for improvement can benefit the organization and its most valuable stakeholders.”

To improve its service to the healthcare management profession, ACHE is on a Baldrige journey of systematic improvement. Illinois Performance Excellence recognized ACHE with a Bronze Award for Commitment to Excellence in 2011 and a Silver Award for Progress Towards Excellence in 2014. ACHE actively uses its feedback reports from examiners, combined with internal assessments based on the Baldrige framework to prioritize and address its most meaningful opportunities for improvement. Studying other organizations' successes has also been a key component of ACHE's journey. Going forward, the organization will use its latest feedback report to pursue further continuous cycles of learning and take the next steps toward performance excellence.

The 2015 Board of Examiners – comprised of 68 experts in business, education, health care and government – spent more than 2,000 hours assessing each applicant in seven categories: leadership; strategic planning; customer focus; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; workforce focus; operations focus; and results. The ILPEX Panel of Judges is responsible for validating the integrity of the ILPEX award process and determining recognition levels for each applicant. The panel is composed of experts selected from all industry sectors and represents various geographic areas of the state of Illinois.

Since 1994, there have been 260 applicants, approximately 1,500 examiners, representing nearly 150,000 hours of work, equivalent to appropriately 72 man-years of work and \$10 million in time --- all to provide improvement feedback to make Illinois organizations more competitive, ultimately saving jobs, improving communities and the lives of Illinois citizens. ILPEX delivers services through an annual evaluation process, training, self-assessments, conferences, seminars, webinars and direct partnering with individuals and organizations.

For more information on how your organization can benefit from services provided by Illinois Performance Excellence, visit www.ilpex.org, or call 888-806-4632.

For more information on the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, visit www.nist.gov/baldrige/.

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ILPEX was founded in 1994 to nurture, develop and highlight excellence by bringing individuals and organizations together, to learn from each other, to share best practices for organizational change and process improvement.

IMEC was established in 1996 to improve the productivity and competitiveness of Illinois' small and mid-sized manufacturing firms. IMEC links long-term plans and related goals with on-site implementation services by identifying performance gaps, solving these gaps, and building a culture to support sustained improvements.