

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Illinois Performance Excellence announces six recipients of its 2014 Awards for Excellence**

**Peoria, Ill. – March. 18, 2015** – Illinois Performance Excellence (ILPEX) will hold the 20th Annual Award Ceremony on March 26 at Abbington Distinctive Banquets in Glen Ellyn from 5-9 pm. The Recognition ceremony provides an opportunity to showcase the benefits of implementing the Baldrige Framework for Performance Excellence through the stories of the award recipients. To attend, contact Carol Fisher by either email at [cfisher@imec.org](mailto:cfisher@imec.org) or phone at 630-244-8434.

Six organizations were selected by its panel of judges as the 2014 recipients of the ILPEX Awards for Excellence, with one earning the highest honor for performance excellence. This annual award recognizes organizations the state of Illinois identifies as leaders that contribute to the economic development and ethical competitiveness in the state. The ILPEX Awards for Excellence recognizes recipients that meet three levels of performance criteria.

One organization was awarded the highest honor, the 2014 ILPEX Gold Award for “Achievement of Excellence,” recognized for establishing itself as a role model organization that operates at an exceptional level in the enduring quest for excellence. The organization is:

***Advocate Lutheran General Hospital – Park Ridge***

Three organizations were awarded the 2014 ILPEX Silver Award for “Progress toward Excellence,” which demonstrates sound and notable continuous improvement processes. They are:

***American College of Healthcare Executives – Chicago  
Health Research & Educational Trust – Chicago  
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund – Oak Brook***

Two organizations received the 2014 ILPEX Bronze Award for “Commitment to Excellence” for their earnest efforts to adopt and apply continuous improvement principles. These organizations are:

***Community Consolidated School District 93 – Bloomingdale  
Concentric Rockford, Inc. – Rockford***

In addition to the award recipients, examiners and judges will also be recognized. This important group of volunteers contributes their time and expertise to help organizations understand their strengths and opportunities for improvement which will lead to performance excellence and sustainability.

The 2014 Board of Examiners – comprised of nearly 100 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.

The journey to excellence requires a process-centered discipline, designed for learning and integration in order to continually achieve exceptional results. The framework of the Criteria for Performance Excellence allows an organization to go at its own pace and to understand the steps toward mature processes. Through the method of approach, deployment, learning and integration, processes become repeatable and regularly evaluated for change and improvement in collaboration with other affected units. ILPEX is Illinois' only statewide quality program patterned on the national Baldrige Framework for Performance Excellence, established by Congress and President Ronald Reagan in 1987, and supported by the U.S. Department of Commerce and NIST.

*For more information on how your organization can benefit from services provided by Illinois Performance Excellence, visit [www.ilpex.org](http://www.ilpex.org), or call 888-806-4632.*

*For more information on the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, visit [www.nist.gov/baldrige/](http://www.nist.gov/baldrige/).*

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