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Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System Awarded Distinguished 2011 Gold Award for Achievement of Excellence from Illinois Performance Excellence

Naperville, IL – (December 1, 2011) Illinois Performance Excellence announces Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System is a recipient of the 2011 Gold Award for “Achievement of Excellence” for demonstrating sound and notable continuous improvement principles. The ILPEX Gold Award is the highest award an organization can receive in the State of Illinois recognizing organizational performance excellence. ILPEX has only recognized eight other organizations at this level, since its inception in 1994. Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System will be formally honored at the 17th annual award recognition ceremony, “Saluting Excellence,” on January 20, 2011, held at the Tellabs’ offices located in Naperville.

“Congratulations to Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System and all of its employees for receiving the highest recognition of the ILPEX Gold Award and achieving excellence in all aspects of its work,” says Darcy Davidsmeyer, President and CEO of Illinois Performance Excellence. “As an honoree, it is recognized for its demonstration of how teamwork and a shared vision can lead not only to organizational success but also to advancements in continuous improvement, sustainability and economic vitality for the State of Illinois.”

Recipients of the ILPEX Gold Award go to those organizations which have demonstrated effective, systematic well-deployed approaches that respond to the multiple requirements of most items in the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence and are integrated to meet organizational needs. Recipients of this award are considered role models for other Illinois-based organizations and, thus, are honored with the highest level of recognition.

Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System is a regional healthcare organization located in East Central Illinois employing 1,600 people. In addition, the Health System has outreach services including clinics staffed by employed physicians and mid-level providers, home health, hospice and homemakers services, durable medical equipment company and reference laboratory services in 20 counties.

Relying on its key strengths of provider integration, employee engagement, clinical quality and strong fiscal performance, it has made tremendous strides in improving patient experience and clinical outcomes through its journey of “Excellence, A Way of Life.” Through this journey, the employees and volunteers have become more deeply engaged in the total healthcare process and actively seek improvements across the organization. By having a more developed strategic alignment throughout the health system, employees understand its mission and its strategic

goals. Its nationally reported patient experience and quality scores have made steady improvements across the board surpassing many of the state and national measures.

Timothy A. Ols, Sarah Bush Lincoln President and CEO, said, “Sarah Bush Lincoln has been on a journey to performance excellence for several years, first earning the silver award in 2005 and again in 2008. This Illinois Performance Excellence recognition is testament to the work the entire organization has done to ensure it is providing excellent care, every person, every time, everywhere. This is the next important step on our journey to becoming a Baldrige-level organization.”

About Illinois Performance Excellence

Illinois Performance Excellence (ILPEX) empowers organizations to understand and use the framework of the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, moving to a systematic “view” which translates into alignment and sustainability. As a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization, ILPEX’s vision is to create a culture of excellence that is pervasive throughout Illinois. For more information on how your organization can benefit from services provided by Illinois Performance Excellence visit www.ilpex.org.

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