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The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence changes name to Illinois Performance Excellence (ILPEX)

New Name Clarifies Focus, Reflects Connection to Baldrige Program

Naperville, IL (November, 29th 2011) - Effective immediately the Illinois Performance Excellence (ILPEX) is the new name for The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence (LFPE), voted on by the ILPEX Board of Trustees.

“In today’s challenging economic environment there is a critical need for the Illinois Performance Excellence,” states Darcy Davidsmeyer, ILPEX President/CEO. “The pursuit of performance excellence among organizations in Illinois reflects the ever-increasing speed of technology as well as competition from the global marketplace.”

Since 1994, The Lincoln Foundation has empowered organizations to understand and use the framework of the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence to create a culture of excellence. As companies apply the criteria, they improve their results while contributing to the economic vitality of their communities and the State of Illinois.

“The new name reflects our goals to clarify our purpose,” Davidsmeyer explains. “In addition, part of that change, we are offering a tiered approach for organizations to apply the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence. Organizations can now take smaller steps toward their pursuit of excellence.”

In line with the name change, ILPEX has launched a new website (www.ilpex.org) and plans to introduce new services in 2012. The new services center on offering two new levels of participation, designed to allow an organization to follow a process that sequentially builds to an understanding of the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence. Level one is for an organization which is interested in beginning a self-assessment and a journey toward performance excellence by completing an organizational profile. Level two is for organizations which have limited expertise or understanding of the linkages and alignment of the Baldrige Criteria, by completing a 15-page self-assessment. Feedback reports and advice on next steps will be provided by ILPEX. Level One and Level Two will then allow an organization to move to Level 3 which is the current service that has been provided around a 50-page self-assessment and recognition may result in an award.

ILPEX continues to work with organizations in implementing improvement management models that focus on achieving results. A not-for-profit organization backed by both private and public

funding, ILPEX works with five sectors: business, education, healthcare, government and not-for-profit. Companies that have successfully applied the ILPEX model for performance include: United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln, Springfield; Quest Diagnostics, Chicago; North Palos School District #117, Palos Hills; The City of Collinsville; and Advocate Good Samaritan Medical Center, Downers Grove.

Studies by the National Institute for Standards and Technology, universities, business organizations, and the U.S. General Accounting office have found that investing in quality principles and performance excellence offer results in: increased productivity, satisfied employees and customers, and improved profitability - both for customers and investors. Many organizations use the award as a steppingstone to the Baldrige National Quality Award.

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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