

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Darcy Davidsmeyer
630-637-1595 ext. 1
darcy@ilpex.org

James R. Bente
630-942-2409
bentej@cod.edu

College of DuPage Awarded 2012 Bronze Award for “Commitment to Excellence” from Illinois Performance Excellence

Naperville, IL (December 4, 2012) - Illinois Performance Excellence announces **College of DuPage**, of Glen Ellyn, IL as a recipient of the 2012 Bronze Award for “Commitment to Excellence” for demonstrating sound and notable continuous improvement principles. Recipients of the ILPEX Bronze Award for “Commitment to Excellence” go to those organizations which have demonstrated earnest efforts to adopt and apply continuous improvement principles, following the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence.

College of DuPage is the largest single-campus community college in the nation outside of California and is the second-largest provider of higher education in the state of Illinois, serving nearly 30,000 students each term. In 2000, the College was an early adopter of the Higher Learning Commission’s Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) for maintaining accreditation. By embracing the AQIP approach, the College has demonstrated that it not only meets accreditation standards, but is consistently striving to improve its performance. COD offers the two-year Associate’s Degree in 41 technical programs and 37 transfer disciplines. In addition, 141 Certificate options are available in the technical areas for those students who desire a credential for the workplace. Since 2009, the College had developed and implemented 46 new degree or certificate options. A significant innovation is the new “3+1” degree program model, which relies on partnering with universities to enable students to earn a Bachelor’s Degree on COD’s campus at a significantly reduced cost. College of DuPage is nearing completion of a 12-year, \$600 million building plan that has included the construction and renovation of more than one million square feet of educational space.

“Congratulations to College of DuPage and all of its employees for its commitment to an on-going journey to excellence, adopting a proven performance method, principles and strategies that nurture excellence in all aspects of an organization,” says Darcy Davidsmeyer, President and CEO of Illinois Performance Excellence. “Addressing organizational performance and process/resource alignment is the best way to get efficiencies, focus and sustainability within any organization.”

College of DuPage will be honored at the ILPEX Quest for Excellence Conference and formally bestowed the award at the 18th annual recognition ceremony, “Saluting Excellence,” both events to be held on March 22, 2013, in Naperville, IL.

The 2012 Board of Examiners -- made up of nearly 100 experts in business, education, health care and government – work in teams, spending more than 1700 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 level for each applicant. The ILPEX Award for Excellence has three levels of recognition with recipients meeting various stages of performance.

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. Four Illinois organizations have been honored with the prestigious Baldrige National Quality Award, they are: Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital – 2010; Community Consolidated School District 15 – 2003; Motorola Commercial, Government & Industrial Solutions Sector – 2002; Motorola. Inc. – 1988.

For more information on how your organization can benefit from services provided by Illinois Performance Excellence, visit www.ilpex.org, or call 630-637-1595 extension 3.

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

###