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Concentric Rockford Inc. Awarded 2012 Bronze Award for “Commitment to Excellence” from Illinois Performance Excellence

Naperville, IL (December 4, 2012) - Illinois Performance Excellence announces **Concentric Rockford Inc.**, of Rockford, 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.

Concentric Rockford Inc. design, develop and manufacture high quality customer-focused solutions for hydraulic and engine applications within the global markets. They strive to be the North American Centre of Excellence leader for hydraulic product and have a key vision to deliver sustainable growth using world-class technology, innovation and business excellence.

“We are proud of our team in Rockford. They have a passion to improve the business and the courage to challenge the status quo. The journey to *Concentric Business Excellence* is mapped out, and the Bronze Award from Illinois Performance Excellence is a significant milestone and we are honored to receive it,” said David Woolley, President and Chief Executive Officer, Concentric.

“Congratulations to Concentric Rockford Inc. 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.”

Concentric Rockford Inc. 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/.

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