

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MEDIA CONTACTS:

Darcy Davidsmeyer  
Illinois Performance Excellence  
630-637-1595 ext. 1  
[darcy@ilpex.org](mailto:darcy@ilpex.org)

Marie Watteau  
AHA  
202-626-2351  
[mwateau@aha.org](mailto:mwateau@aha.org)

Matt Fenwick  
HRET  
312-422-2820  
[mfenwick@aha.org](mailto:mfenwick@aha.org)

### Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) Awarded 2012 Bronze Award for “Commitment to Excellence” from Illinois Performance Excellence

Naperville, IL (December 4, 2012) - Illinois Performance Excellence announces **Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET)**, of Chicago, 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.

“I couldn’t be more proud of our staff and today’s announcement reflects the incredible work they are doing,” said Maulik Joshi, president, HRET and senior vice president of AHA. “A quality journey is never done, but this milestone speaks to the improvements we have made and acts as a marker for where we will go as we fulfill our mission to transform health care through research and education.”

Founded in 1944, the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) is the not-for-profit research and education affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA). HRET’s applied research seeks to create new knowledge, tools, and assistance in improving the delivery of health care by providers in the communities they serve. HRET’s key strategic goals are to create a high performing organization and conduct applied research and performance improvement. HRET also leads AHA’s strategy to accelerate performance improvement in the nation’s hospitals – Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence (HPOE). These goals are reflective of HPOE’s strategic priorities to support national implementation of clinical improvement projects; share best practices; produce action guides, reports and tool kits for the field; and provide leadership development programs, which server to accelerate performance improvement in U.S. hospitals.

“Congratulations to HRET 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. “HRET is taking the lead in its industry to address organizational performance and process/resource alignment with the outcome for better efficiencies, focus and overall results.”

HRET will be honored at the ILPEX Quest for Excellence Conference and formally bestowed the award at the 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ilpex.org), or call 630-637-1595 extension 3.*

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

###