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Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Awarded 2012 Silver Award for “Progress toward Excellence” from Illinois Performance Excellence

Naperville, IL (December 4, 2012) - Illinois Performance Excellence today announced that **Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund** of Oak Brook, IL is a recipient of the 2012 Silver Award for “Progress toward Excellence” for demonstrating sound and notable continuous improvement principles. Recipients of the Illinois Performance Excellence (ILPEX) Silver Award for “Progress toward Excellence” go to those organizations which have demonstrated effective, systematic well-deployed approaches that respond to the overall requirements, for most items, in the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, and are aligned with organizational needs.

In recognition of being awarded an ILPEX Silver Award for Commitment toward Excellence, IMRF Executive Director Louis W. Kosiba said, “We are honored by this recognition. The award offers IMRF staff, employers and member’s tangible evidence of IMRF’s commitment to excellence. The rigorous application process provided IMRF an invaluable opportunity to analyze our processes and procedures. Moreover, the 2012 Feedback Report will provide critical information that will guide us as we continue our commitment to excellence.”

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

Since 1941, the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) has partnered with local units of government throughout Illinois to provide death, disability and retirement benefits for working and retired public employees. Today, IMRF has more than 100,000 retired members and 176,000 active members working for nearly 3,000 different units of local government, including school districts, counties, cities and villages, parks and libraries. At the end of 2011 it had \$25 billion in assets and was 83% funded. IMRF is governed by an independently elected Board of Trustees; four are elected by employers, three by active members, and one by retired members. IMRF receives no funding from the state of Illinois. IMRF is funded by three sources: employee contributions, employer contributions, and investment returns. Historically, investment returns are the largest contributor to IMRF. IMRF consistently works toward reaching full funding over the long term, ensuring that it remains financially sound. A full-funding goal guarantees public workers a secure and modest retirement income at the lowest long-term cost to taxpayers.

“Congratulations to Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund and all of its employees for its progress to an on-going journey to excellence,” says Darcy Davidsmeyer, President and CEO of Illinois Performance Excellence. “Through the use of the Baldrige Criteria, IMFR is addressing

organizational performance by guiding its operations through alignment and integration of key processes, to get sustainable results.”

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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