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St. Mary's Hospital Awarded 2012 Bronze Award for "Commitment to Excellence" from Illinois Performance Excellence

Naperville, IL (December 4, 2012) - Illinois Performance Excellence announces **St. Mary's Hospital**, of Decatur, 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.

"The colleagues and medical staff of St. Mary's Hospital are dedicated to quality patient care, and this recognition emphasizes that dedication," said Kevin F. Kast, President and CEO of St. Mary's Hospital, "We are proud to again be the recipient of this distinguished award?"

"We at St. Mary's Hospital believe in continuous learning, and this process has contributed to our body of knowledge and experience as we focus our attention on exceptional health care services," said Theresa Rutherford, COO of St. Mary's Hospital.

St. Mary's Hospital is a not-for-profit health care facility located in Decatur, Illinois, comprised of a 355-bed acute care hospital, office buildings and an ambulatory testing site. Founded in 1878 by three Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, St. Mary's Hospital combines modern technology with the caring spirit of the original founders. St. Mary's is situated on an attractive 21-acre campus overlooking Lake Decatur and offers a broad spectrum of comprehensive patient services from birth to wellness to end-of-life care. St. Mary's Hospital is an affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System, a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. The core of St. Mary's Hospital's dedication to quality care derives from its mission: To reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan health care ministry.

"Congratulations to St. Mary's Hospital 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."

St. Mary's Hospital 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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