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United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln Awarded Prestigious 2013 Gold Award for “Achievement of Excellence” from Illinois Performance Excellence

Naperville, IL – (December 10, 2013) Illinois Performance Excellence announces United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln is a recipient of the 2013 Gold Award for “Achievement of Excellence” for demonstrating effective and systematic continuous improvement processes and principles. United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln will be formally honored at the 19th annual award recognition ceremony, “Saluting Excellence,” on March 27th, 2014, held at the Abbington Banquets located in Glen Ellyn.

“Congratulations to United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln and all of its employees for its commitment to an on-going journey to excellence,” says Darcy Davidsmeyer, President and CEO of Illinois Performance Excellence. “UCP is a role model for other organizations, demonstrating visionary leadership, dynamic management, sound financial performance, outstanding employee and customer satisfaction, and a solid commitment to excellence and proven results, following the Baldrige *Criteria for Performance Excellence*.”

United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln (UCP) is a nonprofit organization providing services to people with disabilities in Central Illinois. UCP is a recognized leader in the disability field reflected in our commitment to excellence with a focus on the future for individuals with disabilities. We envision a **Life Without Limits for People with Disabilities where throughout the world disability is understood to be a common part of the human experience, neither defining nor limiting**. At UCP our responsibility is not only to assist individuals with disabilities to develop the skills needed to be part of their community, we must also prepare the community to accept people with disabilities.

UCP’s goal is to provide the highest quality services that meet the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families. Factors that set UCP apart include visionary leadership, a strategic culture, and commitment to performance excellence. Programs offered include Play2Learn toy lending libraries, computer loans, camps, respite, Saddle Up! therapeutic horseback riding, developmental training, community based residential supports, supported employment, case management, transition, and assistive technology. UCP also operates two commercial businesses, White Glove Professionals and Gone For Good, which provide custodial and secure document destruction services to the community while employing individuals with disabilities.

In 2004 UCP leadership selected the Baldrige Criteria for Excellence as a roadmap to guide the organization on our path to excellence. Implementation of the criteria has enabled UCP to engage staff, customers, and other stakeholders in the quality improvement process.

Measurement and analysis of performance at all levels of the organization has facilitated decision-making that enables UCP to thrive at a time when many non-profit organizations have been forced to close or cut services.

“Managing by what you know rather than what you think can be a big cultural change for nonprofit organizations. However, it is vital in an economy in which competition among nonprofits has intensified; there is less money to go around, yet more people than ever need services. Nonprofits need to operate more like a business and the Baldrige framework with feedback from Illinois Performance Excellence has helped us do that,” stated by Brenda L. Yarnell, Ph.D., President/CEO.

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 management framework which translates into alignment and sustainability. As a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit 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 1.

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

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