

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2005

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(Governor to Recognize Four Iowa Companies for Performance Excellence)

Cedar Rapids The Executive Council of the Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence (IRPE), the Office of the Governor, and the Iowa Quality Center are proud to announce that two Muscatine plants from **The HON Company** (an operating company of HNI Corporation) ; ; **Facilities Planning and Management, Iowa State University**, Ames; and **Trinity Medical Center**, Bettendorf, IA, Rock Island, IL, Moline, IL, have received Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence awards for 2005.

Governor Thomas J. Vilsack will present the awards at the annual Governor's Recognition of Performance Excellence Celebration in the West Des Moines Marriott, Tuesday, March 2, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

The prestigious Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence awards were established six years ago to recognize those businesses and organizations in the state who have completed a strenuous review and evaluation of their leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, measurement, analysis, and knowledge management, human resource focus, process management and business results. The process is aligned with the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, and the Criteria for Performance Excellence are used for the assessment.

The HON Company - Oak Steel Plant and **Facilities Planning and Management at Iowa State University** will be recognized at the Silver Achievement level and **The HON Company - Geneva Plant** and **Trinity Medical Center** will be recognized at the Bronze Achievement level. In the past four years, there have been 43 applications for the performance excellence awards, and 17 have been recognized for their achievement, five at the silver level and 12 at the bronze level.

There is no monetary award, but those who complete the process say it helps them identify strengths and opportunities for improvement within their companies, provides training for continuous improvement and leadership development, and assures customer focus and efficiency within their operations. This process is a proven method for organizations to achieve their highest potential and become more competitive in the world marketplace. For this reason the process is used by more than 40 states to support their economic development efforts.

Companies and organizations that complete the Iowa process are also better positioned to prepare for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Other organizations that completed various levels of the Iowa performance recognition process include **Guttenberg Municipal Hospital in Guttenberg, Des Moines University in Des Moines, Eagle Point in Dubuque, Cedar Rapids Community School District, Kirkwood Community College – Continuing Education & Training Services in Cedar Rapids, St.**

Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, and Waterloo Community Schools, Waterloo. These organizations will be recognized for their commitment to performance excellence.

The IRPE process, awards and examiner training are coordinated by the Iowa Quality Center, based in Marion, Iowa. Applications to begin the process are open to organizations involved in business and manufacturing, education, government, human services, non-profit or health care.

For more information about the IRPE process and the March 2nd celebration, contact Gary Nesteby at the Iowa Quality Center, (319) 398-7101 or visit the IQC website at www.iowaqc.org.

For more information and reactions from The HON Company, contact Dale Lucht, (563) 264-7442.

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