



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**(Governor Recognizes Iowa Companies for Performance Excellence)**

Cedar Rapids - The Executive Council of the Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence (IRPE), Governor Chet Culver, and the Iowa Quality Center are proud to announce the recipients of the 2007 Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence Awards, Iowa's premier award recognizing high performance management principles.



Nine organizations are receiving recognition this year, seven receiving awards at the Leadership level demonstrating practices and achievement that reflect a high level of performance excellence.

**Gold Award**

**Eaton Corporation, Shenandoah** – a transmission manufacturer whose 570 employees provide 80 different transmission models for heavy-duty trucks to original equipment manufacturers.

**Silver Award**

**Iowa State University, Facilities Planning & Management, Ames** – a department of 440 employees that provides utilities, design and construction services, and maintenance for buildings and grounds of the ISU campus.

**St. Luke's Hospital, Cedar Rapids** – an acute care, community hospital with a staff of over 2600 that provides a wide range of patient care services to the community around Cedar Rapids.

**Bronze Award**

**Genesis Health System, Davenport** – a health care system with nearly 5000 employees that provides services ranging from home health and ambulatory care to hospital-based care and long-term care.

**Mercy Health Systems, Des Moines** – a faith-based, tertiary medical center which employs more than 6600 at 153 patient care facilities on three campuses.

**National Weather Service, Quad Cities Weather Forecast Office, Davenport** – an office of 23 employees that provides weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for 36 counties in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri.

**Wright Medical Center, Clarion** – a 25-bed, Critical Access Hospital with 220 employees provides a wide range of inpatient, outpatient, and diagnostic services to residents of north central Iowa.

Other organizations receiving recognition for 2007 include:

**Kirkwood Community College, Continuing Education Department, Cedar Rapids** – a department of Kirkwood Community College with a full time staff of 39 that provides vocational and avocational learning opportunities in eastern Iowa.

**Iowa Foundation for Medical Care, West Des Moines** – an organization with more than 750 employees that provides care management, quality management, and information management services to the health care industry.

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Governor Chet Culver has been invited to present the awards at the annual Governor's Recognition of Performance Excellence Celebration at the Hy-Vee Conference Center in West Des Moines Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

The prestigious Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence awards were established eight years ago to recognize those businesses and organizations in the state who have completed a strenuous review and evaluation of their organizational performance management approaches and demonstrate improvement in delivery of value to their customers, organizational effectiveness and learning, and engagement of their workforce. The process is aligned with the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, and the Criteria for Performance Excellence are used for the assessment.

In the past eight years, there have been 62 applications for the performance excellence awards, and 32 have been recognized for their achievement, two at the gold level, 11 at the silver level and 19 at the bronze level.

There is no monetary award, but those who complete the process indicate it helps them identify strengths and opportunities for improvement within their companies, provides training for continuous improvement and leadership development, and assures customer focus, efficiency, and workforce engagement within their organizations. 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 37 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. All types and sizes of Iowa organizations are eligible to apply to the Iowa process, including business and manufacturing, education, government, human services, non-profit or health care.

The IRPE process, awards and examiner training are coordinated by the Iowa Quality Center, an independent non-profit organization, based in Marion, Iowa.

For more information about the IRPE process and the February 21<sup>st</sup> celebration, contact Gary Nестeby at the Iowa Quality Center, (319) 398-7101 or visit the IQC website at [www.iowaqc.org](http://www.iowaqc.org).