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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 2008 Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence Awards, Iowa's premier award recognizing high performance management principles.

Six organizations are receiving recognition this year, five receiving awards at the Leadership level demonstrating practices and achievement that reflect a high level of performance excellence based on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.



**Silver Award**

**Guttenberg Municipal Hospital, Guttenberg** – a nonprofit, rural community hospital that provides general medical and surgical services, inpatient hospice services, as well as obstetric and newborn services.

**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.

**Wright Medical Center, Clarion** – a 25-bed, Critical Access Hospital with 250 employees provides a wide range of inpatient, outpatient, and diagnostic services to residents of north central Iowa.

**Bronze Award**

**Cedar Rapids Community School District, Cedar Rapids** – has the second largest enrollment in the state. The District serves 17,600 students in 22 elementary schools, six middle schools, and four high schools.

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

Other organizations receiving recognition for 2008 include:

**Veterans Memorial Hospital, Waukon** – has served Allamakee County and surrounding communities for over 50 years by providing a range of services including physical therapy services, cardiac rehabilitation services, radiology services, and weekend clinics.

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, May 7, 2009 at 12 noon.

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The prestigious Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence awards were established nine 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 nine years, there have been 68 applications for the performance excellence awards, and 37 have been recognized for their achievement, two at the gold level, 14 at the silver level and 21 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 May 7th celebration, contact Gary Nesteby at the Iowa Quality Center, (319) 398-7101 or visit the IQC website at [www.iowaqc.org](http://www.iowaqc.org).