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**THE ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HONORS
LINCOLN FOUNDATION RECIPIENTS**

NAPERVILLE, May 7, 2007 – The Illinois House of Representatives recognized all ten Lincoln Foundation Recipients last Thursday on the floor of the house, including gold recipient Methodist Medical Center of Illinois in *Peoria*. Methodist Medical Center received the Lincoln Foundation Gold Award for Achievement of Excellence, the state's highest award for organizations. The silver recipients recognized included: Centegra Health System, *Woodstock*; Decatur Memorial Hospital, *Decatur*; Delta Dental of Illinois, *Lisle*; IL Division of Child Support Enforcement, *Illinois*; Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital, *Wheaton*; and ZF Sales & Service NA, LLC, *Vernon Hills*. The bronze recipients recognized included: Advanced Technology Service, *Peoria*; Serenity Packaging Corporation, *St. Charles*; and The Carle Foundation, *Urbana*.

These organizations were recognized for their journey to excellence by setting an example of continuous improvement that can be followed by many other organizations throughout the state.

The recognized organizations have shown a commitment to quality and to benchmarking their processes among other top industries. Many of these organizations may continue on to apply for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's highest honor for organizational performance excellence. The recipient's commitment to excellence is truly making the state of Illinois a better place to work and live.

Patterned after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award criteria and process, The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence has an annual recognition of Illinois organizations that have achieved performance excellence and applied outstanding quality principles in their day-to-day operations. The award is presented to organizations that serve as role models for quality, customer satisfaction, and performance excellence in the state of Illinois. Each year the Foundation presents awards at three levels for performance excellence. For more information regarding The Lincoln Foundation, visit the Foundation's website at www.lincolnaward.org.