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CONTACT:

Debbie Hasse

630.637.1595 x1

dhasse@lincolnaward.org

THE LINCOLN FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES AWARD AND EXAMINER APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

NAPERVILLE, January 22, 2009 - The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that 2008 Award Applications and Examiner Applications are now available.

The Lincoln Foundation is in its 15th year of evaluating and recognizing organizational excellence in all sectors throughout the State of Illinois. In the last thirteen years, they have received over 200 applications resulting in 127 organizations being recognized for the commitment to, progress towards or the achievement of excellence. This drive for continuous improvement has resulted in communities of excellence that are cultivating an environment for ongoing economic development. Over 1200 professionals have been trained as Lincoln examiners who now continuously work with their organizations on their journey to excellence.

“Applying for the Lincoln Award provides an organization with an independent, objective evaluation on how well it is aligned & focused toward achieving their mission based on a proven Baldrige framework”, says Paul Kuchuris, President and CEO of The Foundation. “Being an examiner provides an internal expert that can lead an organization to the next level of achievement.”

The Lincoln Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to “being the leader in helping organizations achieve performance excellence through the deployment of the Baldrige criteria”. This drive for continuous improvement goes beyond evaluating and recognizing organizations, it also includes training, assessments and events that assist all those who seek to improve. The Lincoln Award for Excellence is the State of Illinois’ quality recognition process. The award criteria follow the established, and highly prestigious, Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Program. Each year the Foundation presents awards at three levels for performance excellence - Bronze, Silver and Gold.

For more information regarding The Lincoln Foundation’s award & examiner applications, visit The Foundation’s website at www.lincolnaward.org.