



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Distinguished Lincoln Awards to Honor Exceptional Organizations Announces 2006 Award Recipients

Naperville, IL – 2 November 2006 – The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence announces the 2006 recipients of its three-tiered award process based on the Criteria for Performance Excellence of the Baldrige National Quality Program. The 2006 winner of the prestigious Lincoln Gold Award for The Achievement of Excellence is Methodist Medical Center of Illinois, located in Peoria. The Gold tier is for role model organizations that have demonstrated, through their practices and achievements, the organizational capacity to continuously evaluate and improve processes based on established customer requirements. Michael Bryant, President and CEO of Methodist Medical Center is honored with the Gold Level Award. "We have benefited greatly and more importantly have learned from the Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence experience over the last two years," he said. "I am proud our organization listened very carefully to the Lincoln Feedback team and as a consequence we have learned more about ourselves and have implemented changes to make us better. Without question, Methodist is a lot better organization today as a result of the experience of the Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence."

For 2006 there are 6 recipients of the Lincoln Silver Award for Progress Towards Excellence for demonstrating sound and notable continuous improvement processes. The organizations are as follows: **Centegra Health System** – Woodstock; **Decatur Memorial Hospital** – Decatur; **Delta Dental of Illinois** – Lisle; **Illinois Division of Child Support Enforcement, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services** – Springfield; **Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital** – Wheaton; **ZF Sales & Service NA, LLC** – Vernon Hills.

Three additional Illinois organizations have been awarded the 2006 Lincoln Bronze Award for Commitment to Excellence for their earnest efforts to adopt and apply continuous improvement principles. These organizations include: **Advanced Technology Service, Inc.**, - Peoria; **Serenity Packaging Corp.** – St. Charles; **The Carle Foundation** – Urbana.

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“This year we are recognizing a group of organizations that are leading the way in improving Healthcare, Industry and Government” says Paul G. Kuchuris, Jr., President and CEO of The Lincoln Foundation. “We are proud to honor them and to be a part of their success because they represent people who are committed to continuously improving their organizations and developing Communities of Excellence. They are demonstrating that by using a well structured, proven framework, organizations can ensure that our state will continue to be competitive and build a bright future for Illinois.”

Recipients will be formally honored at The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence Recognition Ceremony, hosted by Michael J. Birck, Chairman Tellabs, Inc., at 6:00 p.m. on December 6, 2006 at Tellabs, Inc. in Naperville.

The master of ceremonies for the event will be Senate Majority Leader, Debbie Halvorson who indicated “The Lincoln Foundation is a leader in the important endeavor of supporting and recognizing excellence in business, healthcare, education and government. I am looking forward to congratulating this year’s recipients and thanking them for their contribution to the growth and success of Illinois.”

About The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence

The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence is a not-for-profit organization based by both private and public funding that assists Illinois organizations continuously improve their performance by encouraging, developing, and highlighting excellence among all five sectors of the economy: industry, service, health care, education, and government. Each year a select Lincoln Board of Examiners review and assess award applications in seven areas (leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis, human resource focus, process management and results) and a Panel of Judges determined which applicants have earned recognition. For more information on how your organization can benefit from The Lincoln Foundation or to attend the Recognition Ceremony, call 630-637-1595 or visit our website as www.lincolnaward.org.

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