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NEBRASKA PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE CENTER ANNOUNCES
THE 2010 NEBRASKA EDGERTON AWARD PROGRAM

The Nebraska Performance Excellence Center (NPEC), now administrators of the Nebraska Edgerton Award Program, announced today that it is ready to accept applications for Nebraska's foremost award for organizational excellence. Nebraska businesses are invited to use the Edgerton Award criteria, based on the Baldrige National Quality Award Criteria for Performance Excellence, to improve their organizational performance. Participating businesses can be assessed to the criteria by qualified volunteer Examiners and Judges, receive a comprehensive, unbiased report measuring their performance, and, hopefully, are recommended for the Edgerton Award.

NPEC, a non-profit corporation made up of representatives from a wide variety of Nebraska organizations, is ready to assist Nebraska businesses who want to enhance customer loyalty, achieve sustainable results through strategic planning, and engage employees to help improve overall performance and attain the recognition that comes with winning the Edgerton Award. Beyond recognition, the greatest values a business receives from participating in the Edgerton Award Program are the lasting, internal improvements the organization discovers during the Award process.

There are three levels of Award:

- The Edgerton Award of Commitment recognizes businesses that are early in their journey to performance excellence but have fully developed and measurable processes.
- The Edgerton Award of Progress recognizes organizations demonstrating substantial progress in their journey to performance excellence and may be described as "best-in-class" in their industry.
- The Edgerton Award of Excellence honors organizations that have sustained exceptional performance and can be considered world-class.

Nebraska businesses eligible for the program include for-profit and non-profit, public and private firms which have been in existence for at least one year in manufacturing, service, health care, education or government. Submissions for the Edgerton Award may be made at any time, and may correspond with the organization's goals and strategic initiatives or may coincide with the application requirements of the Baldrige National Quality Award Program. Forty-six Nebraska organizations have been recognized since the inception of the Award in 1992.

Further information and eligibility and application forms can be found on the NPEC website at www.nebraskaexcellence.org.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or would like to schedule an interview with Rex Woods, NPEC President, please call 402-690-9002 or e-mail rwoods@nebraskaexcellence.org.