

Rawls Earns Secretary of Commerce Appointment

Head of Nashville economic development non-profit named to Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Overseers

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 8, 2009 — Kathryn S. Rawls, president and CEO of the non-profit Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) has been appointed by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke to serve as an Overseer for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Named after Malcolm Baldrige, the 26th U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the Baldrige Award was established by Congress in 1987 to enhance the competitiveness and performance of U.S. businesses.

Rawls' organization, TNCPE, is Tennessee's Baldrige program, providing organizations with quality management training and resources, and a regional awards program.

As a member of the 11-person Baldrige Board of Overseers, Rawls will advise on the design, execution and improvement of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award until her term ends in 2012.

"This is truly an honor," said Katie, "and a testament to the strength of the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence. Everyone involved – from members to examiners, to staff and our board – has contributed to our success.

"I think the folks in D.C. have a great deal of respect for what we achieve in Tennessee. At the same time, I expect to learn a great deal from my peers, and I'll be able to use that knowledge to bolster TNCPE's reputation as one of the preeminent regional Baldrige programs in the country."

Managed by the Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), in conjunction with the private sector, the Baldrige award promotes excellence in organizational performance. It recognizes the achievements and results of U.S. organizations, and publicizes successful

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performance strategies. The award is not given for specific products or services, and in the past 21 years, only 75 organizations across the country have received Baldrige Awards.

Like the Baldrige program, TNCPE provides organizational improvement programming, primarily in the framework of a highly demanding awards program. Eighteen Tennessee organizations have earned the Excellence Award, TNCPE's highest honor, and almost 1,100 have participated in TNCPE's evaluation and feedback process.

In addition to low-cost workshops and learning events throughout the year, TNCPE hosts the Excellence in Tennessee Conference in February to further promote and share performance excellence initiatives. For more information, please visit www.TNCPE.org.

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