



2009 Champion of Excellence Award Winner Announced

Tamera Fields of Mountain States Health Alliance receives honor

NASHVILLE, Tenn., February 18, 2009—The Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) is pleased to announce that Tamera Fields, AVP of quality and performance improvement at Mountain States Health Alliance (MSHA), has been named the inaugural TNCPE Champion of Excellence Award winner.

The new honor will annually recognize the accomplishments of an individual who has been a role model in the pursuit of performance excellence within his or her organization.

Fields is known by her colleagues at MSHA as a mentor who empowers them to understand and use the *Criteria for Performance Excellence*.

“Tamera is an outstanding example of someone who not only uses, but perpetuates the Criteria to better her organization,” said TNCPE President and CEO Kathryn Rawls. “Every day she creates a legacy of excellence by leading her peers through the Baldrige process. I’m thrilled she is the first to receive this award.”

Nominations for the Champion of Excellence Award are solicited from TNCPE member organizations. The award recipient is selected by the executive committee and confirmed by the full board of directors.

“When I read the description of the award in the banquet program, I automatically started to think of so many of the people I’ve met over the last 10 years who fit that description,” Fields told the audience at the 2009 Excellence in Tennessee Awards Banquet on February 18. “Living and breathing the *Criteria for Performance Excellence* comes naturally when you’re surrounded by talented TNCPE examiners, award recipients and work within an organization that takes the principles of excellence so seriously.”

The non-profit Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence is an economic development organization that provides regional organizations access to low-cost performance improvement services and education. This is done primarily through the framework of an awards program based on the Baldrige National Quality Program. In addition, TNCPE provides educational opportunities throughout the year, including the Excellence in Tennessee Conference in February.

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