



---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2011

Contact: Michelle Mowery Johnson

1-800-453-6474

[michelle.moweryjohnson@tncpe.org](mailto:michelle.moweryjohnson@tncpe.org)

### **2011 Panel of Judges for State Excellence Awards Program Selected**

*TNCPE program recognizes world-class organizations, fosters economic development in Tennessee*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence has selected the 2011 Panel of Judges, a distinguished group of professionals representing each grand division of the state. The Panel includes Dr. Lyle Ailshie, Director of Greeneville City Schools, Tamera Fields, Vice President of Quality and Performance Improvement for Mountain States Health Alliance, Dr. Donald Fisher, Executive Director of MSQPC, Melanie Hendricks of Cummins Filtration (retired), James Keiffer, General Manager of Middle Tennessee Customer Service for TVA, Jan McNally, Corporate Director-Leadership Development for Covenant Health, Heather Schoch, Business Excellence Consultant, Wes Thompson, Plant Manager for Eaton Corporation, Sam Turner, Jr., Senior Manager of Marketing & Communications for Jackson Energy Authority. Every year, the Panel of Judges plays an integral role in the TNCPE Awards Program, which recognizes local, regional and statewide organizations that demonstrate excellence in business operations and results.

Established in 1993 as a public-private partnership by Governor Ned McWherter, TNCPE strives to promote economic development by helping companies and organizations grow more competitive in today's global marketplace. TNCPE is patterned after the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, the national standard for recognizing organizational excellence. More than 1,100 organizations have participated in and benefited from the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence Awards program. Click [here](#) for a list of TNCPE award winners.

The judges are responsible for validating the integrity of the TNCPE awards process and determining recognition levels for each award applicant. The Panel of Judges is composed of experts selected from all industry sectors including business, manufacturing, education, health care, government and non-profit. All judges have been Baldrige National Quality Awards examiners or have served on the TNCPE Board of Examiners.

*Through its awards program and other endeavors, the non-profit Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence provides organizations access to in-depth, low-cost assessment and consulting services. TNCPE also provides free or low-cost educational and professional development opportunities throughout the year, including the Excellence in Tennessee Conference scheduled for February 21 and 22, 2012 in Franklin. For a full schedule of upcoming TNCPE events or to learn more about our organization, please visit [www.tncpe.org](http://www.tncpe.org). To learn more about the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, please visit [www.nist.gov/baldrige](http://www.nist.gov/baldrige).*

###