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Secretary Gassman Announces 2007 Wisconsin Forward Award Recipients

Wisconsin Forward Award Celebrates 10 Years of Advancing Performance Excellence in State Organizations

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman, on behalf of Governor Jim Doyle, today announced the recipients of the 2007 Wisconsin Forward Award.

Wisconsin Forward Award, Wisconsin's premier organization for the promotion and recognition of high-performance management principals, celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2007. This year's award recipients will be honored at a ceremony and reception taking place at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison on the evening of August 2, 2007. The ceremony will also celebrate the accomplishments of well over 100 Wisconsin organizations that have benefited from the program's services and learning opportunities, as well as the tens of thousands of hours of service that its volunteers have given.

Nine organizations are receiving recognition this year, seven at the Mastery level, demonstrating significant maturity in developing and refining processes that are tied to good results in such areas as building a high-skilled workforce, financial and organizational performance, and exceptional customer satisfaction and retention.

- **Agnesian HealthCare (Fond du Lac)** — an integrated, comprehensive health care delivery system providing medical care to people in seven Wisconsin counties.
- **MetaStar, Inc. (Madison)** — a quality improvement organization that collaborates with health care providers and payers to facilitate improvement in the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care.
- **Pewaukee School District (Pewaukee)** — a district of two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school serving just over 2,100 students in 2006–2007.
- Four entities within the SSM Health Care system, winner of the National Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award in 2002:
 - **St. Clare Hospital & Health Services (Baraboo)** — a rural acute care hospital serving Baraboo, Lake Delton, Wisconsin Dells, Lyndon Station, Merrimac, North Freedom, and Rock Springs.
 - **St. Clare Meadows Care Center (Baraboo)** — St. Clare's long-term nursing facility, offering both skilled nursing and assisted living residential care.
 - **St. Mary's Hospital (Madison)** — a 440-bed acute care hospital and medical center with a full range of inpatient, outpatient, and diagnostic services.
 - **St. Mary's Care Center (Madison)** — a 184-bed skilled nursing home on the St. Mary's Hospital campus.

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Other organizations receiving recognition in 2007 include:

- **Evergreen Retirement Community, Oshkosh (Health Care)**
- **Trostel Whitewater Molding, Whitewater (Manufacturing)**
- **Upland Hills Health, Inc., Dodgeville (Health Care)**

Wisconsin Forward Award, Inc. was created in 1997 by the Governor's Council on Workforce Investment to advance the competitive position and world-class status of Wisconsin organizations in the international marketplace; and to enhance learning, continuous improvement, and enterprise performance. The award promotes excellence in organizational management, recognizes the achievements and results of Wisconsin organizations implementing performance excellence systems, and publicizes successful performance excellence management strategies.

All types and sizes of Wisconsin organizations are eligible to apply, including manufacturers, service companies, small businesses, educational institutions, health care organizations, and non profit organizations, including trade and professional associations, government entities, and charities.

WFA is a public/private partnership modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Program. The not-for-profit organization receives financial support from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development as well as other organizations across the state.

Visit www.forwardaward.org to learn more.