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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Vermont Council for Quality Awards Vermont Organizations**

*Burlington, VT* – Vermont Council for Quality (VCQ) awarded several Vermont organizations and individuals at their 2005 Recognition & Awards Ceremony on March 2 at the Wyndham Hotel in Burlington. Governor Jim Douglas kicked-off the ceremony speaking on the importance of having quality-focused organizations in Vermont. Keynote speaker Janet Crutchfield, from the Ritz-Carlton in Washington, DC, spoke on their Baldrige Journey. The Ritz-Carlton is the only service organization to date to have won the elite National Malcolm Baldrige Award twice.

**Rutland Regional Medical Center** and the **VA Medical and Regional Officer Center** in White River Junction were both given the Commitment Level Award. This award is given to those organizations who have taken the initiative to complete an organizational assessment and have implemented continuous improvements throughout their organization.

In addition, there were over 200 individuals recognized at the Interest Level which includes current VCQ members, those who have participated in Baldrige training in 2005, and those who have become Vermont Examiners.

Founded in 1996, Vermont Council for Quality is a non-profit that helps Vermont organizations improve performance and competitiveness. VCQ's products and services include a comprehensive organizational assessment identifying strengths and improvement opportunities and serves as the foundation for the Vermont Council for Quality Award process, which is based on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award criteria. In addition, VCQ provides continuous improvement education and training, networking opportunities, serves as a resource referral for information, knowledge, and sharing best practices within and between Vermont organizations.

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