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Vermont Council for Quality to Co-Sponsor National Baldrige Regional Conference

COLCHESTER, VT – The Baldrige National Quality Program, based at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Washington, D.C., selected Vermont Council for Quality to co-sponsor the eastern 2006 Baldrige Regional Conference on September 21 in Nashua, New Hampshire along with the Granite State Quality Council.

The Conference will welcome speakers and workshop presentations from 2005 Malcolm Baldrige Award recipients: Sunny Fresh Foods, Inc. (manufacturing); DynMcDermott Petroleum Operations (service); Park Place Lexus (small business); Jenks Public Schools (education); Richland College (education); and Bronson Methodist Hospital (health care). In addition, the Conference will feature five former Baldrige Award recipients. The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award is the nation's highest honor for quality and performance excellence.

Whether your organization is large or small; involved in service, manufacturing, health care or education; housed in one location or multiple sites around the globe; you can benefit from the knowledge and experience of the Baldrige Award recipients.

“This is a very exciting opportunity for Vermonters to learn from these high performing organizations,” said Laurie Emerson, Director of Operations for Vermont Council for Quality. “This is the first time that a National Baldrige Conference will be in our area. We are honored to have been selected by the Baldrige National Quality Program along with the Granite State Quality Council to co-sponsor this event.”

The event will be held at the Sheraton Nashua Hotel in New Hampshire on September 21st. For more than a decade, the Baldrige Regional Conferences have been a valuable forum for Baldrige Award recipients to showcase their exceptional performance practices and results. You’ll hear from senior leaders and other representatives from these Award winning organizations as they will share their journey and answer questions about the seven Categories of the Baldrige Criteria.

An optional pre-conference workshop will be offered on September 20 to help familiarize people new to Baldrige about the Program and the Criteria in order to maximize their learning at the Conference. The pre-conference workshop is limited to the first 60 people.

The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award was created by Public Law 100-107 and signed into law on August 20, 1987. Public Law 100-107 led to the creation of a new public-private partnership. Principal support for the Program comes from the Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, established in 1988.

The Award is named for Malcolm Baldrige, who served as Secretary of Commerce from 1981 until his death in 1987. His managerial excellence contributed to long-term improvement in efficiency and effectiveness of government.

Founded in 1997, Vermont Council for Quality is non-profit corporation that helps Vermont organizations improve performance and competitiveness. VCQ is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Program and is one of 45 state and local award programs in the United States. VCQ provides continuous improvement education and training, organizational assessment surveys, networking opportunities, serves as a resource referral for information, knowledge, and sharing of best practices within and between Vermont organizations.

To learn more about the Baldrige Regional Conference and Vermont Council for Quality, visit:

www.VermontQuality.org