

Department of Workforce Development
Secretary's Office
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
Email: dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us
Website: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/>



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Contact: Rose Lynch, DWD Director of Communications, 608-266-6753

Elizabeth Menzer, Executive Director, Wisconsin Forward Award, Inc., 608-663-5300

Secretary Roberta Gassman Announces Recipients of Governor's Wisconsin Forward Award of Excellence *Models of Excellence In Managing Healthcare And Business Enterprises*

Madison – Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman, on behalf of Governor Jim Doyle, today announced the recipients of the 2006 Governor's Wisconsin Forward Award of Excellence, Wisconsin's highest honor for organizational performance excellence.

Four organizations are receiving the Governor's Award of Excellence award this year; they are models in healthcare and business management. In announcing the Awards, Secretary Gassman praised the recipients, noting that these organizations "are committed to management excellence, have developed innovative strategies to address health care and business challenges, engage in proactive efforts to build a high-skilled workforce, and have demonstrated outstanding results.

Added Gassman, "These award winners demonstrate that an organization's ongoing commitment to excellence can have long-term affects and lead to major gains in financial performance, patient care and safety, customer satisfaction and retention, and employee performance and involvement."

Wisconsin Forward Award recipients will be presented with their award in a ceremony at the Overture Center for the Arts in Madison, WI on February 7, 2007. To be presented with the Wisconsin Forward Governor's Award of Excellence are:

- **Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare–All Saints, Racine**, an integrated health care delivery system serving a population of nearly 200,000 through a network of multi-specialty and primary care physician offices and a medical center operating on two campuses.
- **Runzheimer International, Waterford**, a management consulting firm specializing in employee mobility, with services tailored to specifically meet the needs of 2500 customers through four primary business lines of service: business vehicle, global mobility, government, and travel management.
- **Meriter Hospital, Madison**, a 448-bed non-sectarian teaching hospital providing inpatient and outpatient care to the people of south central Wisconsin through three key service lines—medicine, surgery, and emergency services—and two specialty centers for cardiac and women's health.
- **Luther Midelfort, Mayo Health System, Eau Claire**, a highly integrated, physician led, multi-specialty health care system that serves 123,000 patients at four hospitals, eleven clinics, and three long-term care facilities throughout seven counties.

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The 2006 Governors Award of Excellence recipients were selected from among 16 applicants. All applicants were rigorously evaluated by an independent Board of Examiners in seven areas: leadership; strategic planning; customer and market focus; measurement, analysis, and knowledge management; human resource focus; process management; and results. The evaluation process included about 875 hours of review. Eight organizations earned on-site visits to clarify questions and verify information in the applications.

Other organizations receiving recognition in 2006 include:

- American Society for Quality, Milwaukee (Service)
- Bay Area Medical Center, Marinette (Health Care)
- Community Memorial Hospital, Menomonee Falls (Health Care)
- National Council on Crime and Delinquency, Madison (Non-Profit)
- Northcentral Technical College, Wausau (Education)
- ProHealth Care, Waukesha (Health Care)
- Red Cedar Medical Center, Mayo Health System, Menomonie (Health Care)
- Saint Michael's Hospital/Ministry Health Care, Stevens Point (Health Care)
- St. Clare Hospital & Health Services, Baraboo (Health Care)
- St. Clare Meadows Care Center, Baraboo (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.

Over the past ten years, only six other organizations have received the Wisconsin Forward Governor's Award of Excellence.

Visit www.forwardaward.org to learn more.