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## District Recognized for Performance Excellence

The Cedar Rapids Community School District has received a 2006 Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence Award from the Executive Council of the Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence (IRPE), the Office of the Governor, and the Iowa Quality Center.



"We are grateful to the Iowa Quality Center for sponsoring the Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence Awards," noted Dr. Dave Markward, Superintendent. "This is validation of the direction the District is headed and recognition of significant application of the Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence criteria. It also recognizes the value of the hard work being done by our employees across the Cedar Rapids Community School District."



The Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence awards recognize businesses and organizations that have completed a strenuous review and evaluation of their leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, measurement, analysis, and knowledge management, human resource focus, process management and results. The process is aligned with the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The Criteria for Performance Excellence are used for the assessment.

The District is being recognized at the Bronze Achievement level. Other 2006 honorees are John Deere Credit (Gold Achievement level); Facilities Planning and Management at Iowa State University, Great River Medical Center, The HON Company - Oak Steel Plant, and St. Luke's Hospital (Silver Achievement level); and Eaton Corporation and Hearth and Home Technologies (Bronze Achievement level). In the past four years, there have been 53 applications for the performance excellence awards, and 25 have been recognized for their achievement, one at the gold level, nine at the silver level and 15 at the bronze level.

"We also extend congratulations to each of the other organizations being recognized with us this year and are humbly pleased to be in their company," Markward noted.



There is no monetary award, but the process allows organizations to identify strengths and opportunities for improvement within their companies, provides training for continuous improvement and leadership development, and assures customer focus and efficiency within their operations.

"We know that there is a great deal more to accomplish; the biggest room in our house is the room for improvement," Markward added. "In that spirit, we look forward to receiving the feedback report that is being constructed by the examiner team that reviewed our application and conducted a site visit to our district. This report will provide much of the basis for our improvement efforts in the coming year."

The 2006 awards will be presented in February at the annual Governor's Recognition of Performance Excellence Celebration in West Des Moines.

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