



HEALTH RESEARCH &  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST  
In Partnership with AHA



For more information:

**Jennifer Schleman**  
AHA  
202-626-5491  
[jschleman@aha.org](mailto:jschleman@aha.org)

**Matt Fenwick**  
HRET  
312-422-2820  
[mfenwick@aha.org](mailto:mfenwick@aha.org)

**Carol Fisher**  
Illinois Performance  
Excellence  
630-637-1595 ext. 2  
[carol@ilpex.org](mailto:carol@ilpex.org)

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **HRET Receives 2014 Silver Award for “Progress toward Excellence” *Award honors effective, systematic and well-deployed approaches***

CHICAGO – December 4, 2014 – Illinois Performance Excellence (ILPEX) today announced that the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) of the American Hospital Association (AHA) has received the 2014 Silver Award. Based on the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, the Silver Award is bestowed to organizations that demonstrate effective, systematic and well-deployed approaches toward quality improvement.

“A Silver Award is a great honor and a credit to our team and its commitment to continuous improvement for the health care field,” said Maulik Joshi, HRET president and AHA senior vice president of research. “Our mission is to transform health care through research and education, and this recognition is a testament to the experience, expertise and passion of the HRET team on our journey to serve our customers in a world-class manner.”

ILPEX’s mission is “to empower organizations in their journey of performance excellence through awareness and deployment of the Baldrige criteria, improving results and contributing to the economic vitality of their communities and the state of Illinois.” HRET, which received the Bronze Award in 2012, built on its work to receive Silver by aligning improvement efforts toward organizational needs, which led to sound and notable continuous improvement.

“This program takes a true commitment from leadership and dedication by the entire organization to refine their processes, delight the customers, engage their workforce, and achieve best-in-class results,” said ILPEX CEO/President Darcy Davidsmeyer. “Congratulations to HRET’s leadership and staff for their continuing efforts to improve and achieve ongoing success.”

**(more)**

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ILPEX was designed with three levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) in order to promote accessibility of the program for institutions at varying degrees of maturity with their continuous improvement process.

ILPEX's panel of judges determines the level of recognition achieved based on the application, consensus feedback, site visit findings and the recommendation from the judge assigned to an application.

HRET will be formally honored at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual award recognition ceremony on March 26, 2015, in Glen Ellyn, Ill. Founded in 1994 as the Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence, ILPEX uses the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence to determine performance excellence of select Illinois organizations from five sectors: business, education, government, health care and not-for-profit. Since its inception, more than 200 organizations have participated, all in the pursuit to improve processes and performance and promote the economic success of the state.

HRET's key strategic goals are to create a high-performing organization and conduct applied research and performance improvement. HRET also leads the AHA strategy to accelerate performance improvement in the nation's hospitals—Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence (HPOE). These goals are reflective of HPOE's strategic priorities to support national implementation of clinical improvement projects; share best practices; produce action guides, reports and toolkits for the field; and provide leadership development programs, which serve to accelerate performance improvement in U.S. hospitals.

For more information, please visit <http://www.nist.gov/baldrige/> or [www.ilpex.org](http://www.ilpex.org).

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### **Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET)**

Founded in 1944, the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) is the not-for-profit research and educational affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA). HRET's mission is to transform health care through research and education. HRET's applied research seeks to create new knowledge, tools and assistance in improving the delivery of health care by providers in the communities they serve. HRET has more than 75 employees with annual revenues of \$54 million. For more information about HRET, visit [www.hret.org](http://www.hret.org).

### **About Illinois Performance Excellence**

Illinois Performance Excellence (ILPEX) empowers organizations to understand and use the framework of the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, moving to a systematic "view" which translates into alignment and sustainability. As a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, ILPEX has a vision to create a culture of excellence that is pervasive throughout Illinois. For more information on how your organization can benefit from services provided by Illinois Performance Excellence, visit [www.ilpex.org](http://www.ilpex.org).