

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MINNESOTA COUNCIL FOR QUALITY REACHES 200 MEMBERS**

The Minnesota Council for Quality is proud to report that it recently reached 200 members. “This is a testament to the commitment organizations and individuals in this state have to on-going improvement,” says Brian Lassiter, president of the Council. “This is also a significant milestone in the Council’s continued transformation – further evidence that we are indeed now providing value for our members.”

As of December 31, the Council had 202 members representing over 140,000 employees in and beyond Minnesota. “The Council had 17 members in May of 2002,” says Lassiter. “While the tremendous growth in membership should be celebrated, we have a long way to go to reach our vision. In fact, many of our core services – tools such as our on-line improvement Clearinghouse, our Consultant Referral Network, and the benchmarking relationships we create – will become more valuable as we increase the number of members. As a result, we hope to double our member community over the next year or so.”

The Council would like to recognize 71 organizations and individuals who joined or renewed their membership in the fourth quarter of 2004. Special recognition goes to Benedictine Health System, Fairview Health Services, Medtronic Corporation, and Xcel Energy for joining (or renewing) as Sponsoring Members. Their contributions help support more affordable memberships for individuals and smaller organizations.

“Xcel Energy – and NSP before them – has been a long-time supporter of the Council’s mission,” says Lassiter. “We thank them for their continued support. Benedictine and Fairview are two very significant health care providers in the state, and both are intensely interested in high quality clinical care as well as improving operational performance. Medtronic’s focus on product and process quality is unparalleled in Minnesota; their emphasis on reaching six sigma quality is evident in their results. All four organizations represent leaders in their industries, and we thank them for their support.”

In addition to Benedictine, Fairview, Medtronic, and Xcel Energy, these individuals and organizations became members last quarter (asterisks indicate renewal members):

Andrew Tool and Superior Tool and Machining, Plymouth  
AQS Management Systems, Inc., St. Paul  
Bank of Elk River, Elk River\*  
Becky Bartels, St. Paul  
Benedictine Health System, Cambridge  
Cathy Berglund, St. Paul  
Biasca & Associates Inc, Highlands Ranch, CO  
Tim Bloudek, Eden Prairie\*  
Carstens Consulting Corporation, Spring Lake Park\*  
Century College Customized Training, White Bear Lake\*

Bob Christenson, Brooklyn Center  
clientek, Minneapolis  
Colder Products, St. Paul\*  
Karen Copp, River Falls\*  
Dairy Strategies, LLC, Lauderdale\*  
Db Ink, Big Lake\*  
Duncan Co., Minneapolis  
Dunwoody Institute, Minneapolis\*  
Elk River ISD 728 Administrative Team, Elk River\*  
Emerald Quality Services, Minneapolis\*  
Employee Communications, Apple Valley  
Endurant Business Solutions, Eden Prairie\*  
Fairview Health Services, Minneapolis  
Gary Floss, New Brighton\*  
Steve George, St. Louis Park\*  
Great River Energy, Elk River  
Justin Grussin, St. Paul  
Hayfield School District, Hayfield  
Hazelden Foundation, Center City\*  
HealthPartners Central Minnesota Clinics, St. Cloud  
Hillswick Group, LTD, Brooklyn Park\*  
Rick Hokanson, Bloomington\*  
Huberty Performance Learning, Minneapolis\*  
In\*sight Solutions Group, Inc., St. Paul  
Indian Health Board of Minneapolis, Minneapolis  
insightformation, Inc., Golden Valley\*  
ISD 283 School Board & District Office, St. Louis Park  
James Haedtke, Burnsville\*  
Johnson Consulting Group, Minneapolis\*  
Dale Johnson, Minneapolis  
George Karayianes, Eden Prairie\*  
Mark Lanz, Edina\*  
LJ Menke Consulting, Shoreview\*  
Lynn & Associates, Shorewood\*  
Lois Mackin, Plymouth\*  
Management Mastery Inc., New Brighton\*  
MDA Leadership, Minneapolis  
Medtronic, Inc., Minneapolis\*  
Micro-Tech Hearing Instruments, Plymouth\*  
Steven Nelson, Brooklyn Park  
North Memorial Quality Services Department, Robbinsdale\*  
Northland Community and Technical College, Center for Outreach and Innovation, Thief River  
Falls  
Northstar Quality, Inc., Kilkenny  
Opportunity Services, Inc., Red Wing\*  
ProMation Systems, Inc., Blaine\*  
Quest Analytical, Inc., Eden Prairie\*  
Lori Ramberg, Minnetonka  
Schwarz Williams Companies, Inc., Minneapolis\*  
Jim Stahley, Burnsville\*  
Stat-Ease, Inc., Minneapolis

Stora Enso Duluth Paper Mill, Duluth  
Al Strauss, Bloomington\*  
Sunny Fresh Foods, Monticello\*  
Synergy Resource Group, Inc., Plymouth  
Tetra Pak Chilled Inc. IQe Department, Minneapolis\*  
The Bailey Group, Golden Valley  
The Text Doctor, Elizabeth Fricke, North St. Paul  
University of MN College of Continuing Education, St. Paul\*  
US Bank, Client Services Group, St. Paul  
Virchow, Krause and Company, Bloomington\*  
Xcel Energy, Minneapolis\*

We thank all members for their support. A complete list of members is available at <http://www.councilforquality.org/member.cfm>.

Membership in the Council not only supports quality and performance excellence throughout Minnesota and beyond, but also provides members discounts to Council services, discounts to Council partner services, and other tangible benefits. Individual memberships are \$100 and organization memberships begin at \$250.

**About the Minnesota Council for Quality**

Founded in 1987, the Minnesota Council for Quality is a non-profit that helps organizations improve performance and competitiveness. The Council's primary service is a comprehensive organizational assessment that identifies strengths and improvement opportunities and serves as the foundation for the Minnesota Quality Award. In addition, the Council brokers improvement-related resources, information, knowledge, and best practices within and between Minnesota organizations. For more information, please visit our website at [www.councilforquality.org](http://www.councilforquality.org).

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