

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Brian Lassiter, Minnesota Council for Quality, 612-868-3519
Dan Nelson, Rochester Area Quality Council 507-287-9050

MINNESOTA COUNCIL FOR QUALITY AND ROCHESTER AREA QUALITY COUNCIL AGREE TO ALLIANCE

The Minnesota Council for Quality, Minnetonka, and the Rochester Area Quality Council (RAQC), have agreed to an alliance that will better leverage their resources and increase the value to both organizations' member base.

"This alliance is consistent with our vision of building a statewide network of organizational improvement resources," says Brian Lassiter, president of the Minnesota Council for Quality. "RAQC has a terrific history of providing high quality programs and services to their members – to both individuals and organizations in the Rochester area. This arrangement allows the Minnesota Council to begin offering those services to our members at a discount. This arrangement also brings tremendous value to existing RAQC members who can now enjoy the full benefits of a Council membership at a reduced contribution rate."

The alliance allows members of the RAQC to elect to also join the Minnesota Council for Quality and thereby have full access the Council's growing list of benefits. It also allows Olmsted-county based Council members to elect to join the RAQC at no additional membership fee.

"We are happy with this agreement," says Dan Nelson, President of RAQC and ex Officio Board member of the Minnesota Council for Quality. Nelson, also the General Manager of Hampton Inn-Rochester, continues: "This alliance will expand the value we offer our RAQC members by bringing them the beneficial services that the Minnesota Council offers. The Council offers many services we do not, like a comprehensive organizational assessment, an on-line improvement Clearinghouse, a Vendor Referral Service launching this fall, and partnerships with other non-profits and universities/colleges. RAQC members can now begin to enjoy those benefits as well as the value that RAQC will continue to bring its members."

Both organizations are also exploring ways to better share information, to market each others' services, and to offer joint programs and services. "In times such as these," says Lassiter, "it is important for non-profits to find ways to leverage each others' assets and strengths. We are two organizations that have strong reputations and services. This alliance allows us to more effectively utilize those strengths for the benefit of both sets of memberships."

The alliance begins immediately and will last indefinitely.

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 product 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 and improvement Clearinghouse at www.councilforquality.org.

About the Rochester Area Quality Council

The RAQC mission is to promote awareness of the opportunities in quality and productivity by: advocating the widespread use of continuous quality improvement processes, providing training in new quality tools and techniques, and exchanging ideas, experiences, and expertise. The RAQC offers a monthly breakfast series on organizational improvement and sponsors several conferences and events throughout the year. More information can be found at <http://www.raqc.com/who.asp>.

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