

PRESS RELEASE

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## **MINNESOTA COUNCIL FOR QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT NETWORK COMBINE**

The Minnesota Council for Quality, Minnetonka, and the Performance Improvement Network (PIN), Minneapolis, have agreed to a combination that folds PIN's educational services into the Council's portfolio of programs and services.

PIN's core product is a monthly breakfast discussion in which a local speaker shares information on various improvement-related topics such as leadership, planning, customer focus, measurement and information, process improvement, and human resources. Meetings are usually attended by 50 or so senior executives, middle managers, and professionals.

"This combination makes sense for members of both organizations," says Brian Lassiter, president of the Minnesota Council for Quality and former president of PIN. "A major part of the Council's vision is to broker knowledge and resources relating to organizational improvement. PIN provides a proven, successful vehicle for sharing expertise among professionals and managers throughout the Twin Cities."

Current PIN members have become members of the Council. Members of the combined organization are entitled to free attendance at the monthly improvement discussions, usually \$15 per month. Members also enjoy a variety of other benefits, such as discounts to other Council services, discounts to Council partners' services, and recognition.

"In a difficult business climate, the benefit for our members is obvious," continues Lassiter. "Not only does this arrangement save about \$150 a year per employee, but the value in terms of increased knowledge sharing, learning, and networking is immeasurable."

### **About the Minnesota Council for Quality**

Founded in 1987, the Minnesota Council for Quality is a non-profit with a dual mission of helping organizations improve their performance and competitiveness as well as recognizing performance excellence throughout the state. Along with the Minnesota Quality Award, the Council offers other services that advance improvement within and between Minnesota organizations.

### **About Performance Improvement Network**

Founded originally as the Deming Forum in the late 80s, the Performance Improvement Network is a non-profit professional association that provides a forum for participants to share information on principles, processes, and practices that improve organizational performance and/or competitiveness. PIN hosts monthly improvement breakfasts, regularly attended by an average of 50 Twin Cities managers and professionals. PIN's website is [www.improvementnetwork.org](http://www.improvementnetwork.org).

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