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Laxton Named to Board of Examiners for 2014 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award

GAITHERSBURG, Md.—The Commerce Department’s National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has named Christopher E. Laxton, CAE, Executive Director of AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (AMDA) in Columbia, MD, to the Board of Examiners for the 2014 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The Baldrige Award is the nation’s highest honor for organizational innovation and performance excellence.

Appointed by the NIST Director, examiners are responsible for reviewing and evaluating applications submitted for the Baldrige Award, as well as other assessment-related tasks. The examiner board is composed of more than 400 leading experts competitively selected from industry, professional, trade, education, health care and nonprofit (including government) organizations from across the United States.

Those selected meet the highest standards of qualification and peer recognition, demonstrating competencies related to customer focus, communication, ethics, action orientation, team building and analytical skills. All members of the board must take part in a nationally ranked leadership development course based on the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence and the scoring/evaluation processes for the Baldrige Award.

Laxton, a career association professional with over 30 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, governance and operations, has served as AMDA’s Executive Director since 2013. AMDA, the national professional association of medical directors, attending physicians, and other professionals practicing long-term care medicine, is dedicated to excellence in patient care and provides education, advocacy, information and professional development to promote the delivery of quality post-acute and long-term care medicine. Laxton has served as a national Baldrige Examiner since 2008.

Named after Malcolm Baldrige, the 26th Secretary of Commerce, the Baldrige Award was established by Congress in 1987. Awards may be given annually to organizations in each of six categories: manufacturing, service, small business, education, health care and nonprofit. The Award promotes innovation and excellence in organizational performance, recognizes the achievements and results of U.S. organizations, and publicizes successful performance strategies. Since 1988, 95 organizations have received Baldrige Awards, including the 2013 winners: Pewaukee School District, Pewaukee, Wisc. (education) and Sutter Davis Hospital, Davis, Calif. (health care).

For information on the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program and the Baldrige Award application process, call (301) 975-2036, send an e-mail to baldrige@nist.gov, or visit http://www.nist.gov/baldrige.

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