

Urbandale CSD Is First School District In Iowa To Receive Top Performance Excellence Award

Urbandale Community School District is the first district in Iowa to receive the Gold Leadership Level Award and will be recognized this spring during the Governor's Recognition of Performance Excellence Celebration

URBANDALE, Iowa – January 16, 2018 – The [Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence \(IRPE\)](#) Executive Council and the [Iowa Quality Center](#) recently announced recipients of the 2017 Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence Awards. [Urbandale Community School District \(Urbandale CSD\)](#) is the only school district in Iowa to achieve the Gold Leadership Level Award. IRPE is Iowa's National Baldrige-based process designed to recognize role model organizations in education, manufacturing, nonprofit, healthcare and business. Receiving the Gold Leadership Level Award in 2017, marks the fourth consecutive year the district has been recognized for achieving greater and greater levels of performance excellence.

"The purpose of the state of Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence process is to recognize role model organizations that complete a rigorous organizational assessment leading to sustainability and maintaining a future focus on performance excellence," said IRPE Executive Director Gary Nesteby. "The leadership in these businesses has made a commitment to attaining higher levels of performance by receiving feedback from volunteer examiners willing to spend over 140 hours of assessment time to help build quality and competitiveness in Iowa-based organizations."

In 2010, Urbandale CSD began the exceptional and challenging journey of implementing a systems approach for continual improvement in order to re-engage learners, help them to feel a sense of purpose in their learning and provide them the tools they need to become independent learners. By adhering to the rigorous standards established by the Baldrige framework—standards that the most successful organizations across the nation use to achieve high performance—Urbandale is able to more fully align goals throughout the entire district with one clear aim: to systemically advance student achievement.

"The Urbandale Community School District is very proud to receive this award," said Urbandale CSD Superintendent Steve Bass. "While the recognition validates our work in continual improvement as a system, we appreciate the process the Baldrige framework brings to our efforts. Without this structure, we'd be much less likely to be where we are at and continue to develop into a high performing school system."



The [Governor's Recognition of Performance Excellence Celebration and Conference](#) will be recognizing the following award recipients on March 29, 2018, at the Meadows Conference Center in Altoona:

Honored at the Tier 3 Leadership Level – Gold Achievement

Urbandale Community School District, Urbandale, Iowa
Mary Greely Medical Center, Ames, Iowa

Honored at the Tier 3 Bronze Leadership – Bronze Achievement

Businessolver, West Des Moines, Iowa

Honored at the Tier 3 Leadership Level

Americas Small Business Development Center Iowa, Ames, Iowa

Honored at the Tier 1 Commitment Level

Pizza Ranch, Orange City, Iowa

Continual improvement is much more than a set of tools, it's a paradigm shift in education that empowers students to try, to fail, to learn, to make changes, to try again and to continually improve on their personal pathway to performance excellence. To learn more about continual improvement throughout the Urbandale CSD, view videos in the district's [Quality & Continual Improvement Showcase](#) and visit: [UrbandaleSchools.com](#)

About Iowa Quality Center

The Iowa Quality Center (IQC) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was established more than 20 years ago as a result of collaboration between Kirkwood Community College and Grant Wood AEA (Woods Quality Center). The IQC was established as a result of being named the administrator of the Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence (Baldrige based state award program) by the Iowa Business Council and the largest employers in the state of Iowa. The mission of the IQC is to provide leadership for performance excellence by connecting individuals, organizations and communities. While the IQC staff is based in Hiawatha, its networking groups, consultation and membership activities take place throughout the state. For more information, visit: www.iowaqc.org

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About Urbandale Community School District

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The District serves over 3,900 students in six elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale District supports an increasingly diverse student population where 47 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the District. By implementing innovative [Quality/Continual Improvement](#) strategies that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming lifelong learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: [UrbandaleSchools.com](#) and follow on Twitter [@UrbandaleCSD](#).

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