

2006 Alabama Quality Award Winners Announced

November 2006

Tuscaloosa, Ala. – The Alabama Productivity Center today announced the recipients of the 2006 Alabama Quality Award (AQA), the state’s honor for quality and performance excellence.

The highest level of recognition, **Level 3- Alabama Excellence Award**, was awarded to Buffalo Rock Company – Alabama Divisions – Birmingham, Dothan, Gadsden, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Talladega, Tuscaloosa and Tuscumbia.



Recipients of the **Level 2 Award- Progress Toward Excellence** were Buffalo Rock Company – Corporate Logistics, Manufacturing, Operations, and Facilities, Birmingham.



The AQA is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The AQA recognizes and honors organizations that use effective productivity and quality improvement strategies, techniques or practices which can be shared with other organizations to help contribute to the overall economic well-being in the state of Alabama.

The award is based upon performance criteria that include the following: excellence in leadership; strategic planning; attention to customers and other stakeholders; market focus; process management; and analysis of organizational performance. Companies use the criteria as a self assessment tool to determine at which level of the AQA they should apply.

“For most organizations, the most valuable aspect of going through the award process is the feedback that an organization receives, both external and internal,” said Dr. David Miller, Director of the Alabama Productivity Center. “Externally, the award process provides an audit of whether the organization is doing the right things the right way.

“Internally, the process forces an organization to do a self assessment by going through the steps of preparing an application.”

The awards will be presented at the Alabama Quality Award Annual Conference and Award Ceremony the evening of November 30 at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa. In addition to the presentation of awards, winners of the Alabama Quality Award will share their best practices. The conference will be held November 29-December 1.

“Once again, we are extremely pleased that our Alabama Sales divisions have exceeded the 2005 Award by achieving the highest level of recognition,” stated Jimmy Lee, President and CEO. “We are proud also that our Manufacturing Operations, applying as a separate property, received the Level 2 Award. This reflects all of our employee-partners’ commitment to quality, management processes and overall customer satisfaction. This is truly a great honor and our employee-partners and customers deserve this acknowledgment.”