



Baldrige National Quality Program National Institute of Standards and Technology • Department of Commerce

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Commerce Secretary Names Quality Expert to Baldrige Board of Overseers *State of Ohio's Wayt to Help Promote Organizational Performance Excellence*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke has appointed Gregory L. Wayt, adjutant general for the State of Ohio, to serve on the Board of Overseers for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's highest honor for organizational innovation and performance excellence.

The Board of Overseers consists of distinguished leaders representing all sectors of the U.S. economy and the organizations eligible for the Baldrige Award (manufacturing, small business, service, health care, education and nonprofit). Appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, these leaders evaluate the Baldrige Program, provide policy guidance and assess how the Award serves the national interest. Overseers are appointed to three-year terms.

Wayt serves alongside 11 other leading experts selected from industry, professional, charitable and trade organizations; education; health care and government.

Wayt is the Ohio cabinet level member directly responsible for the readiness and preparedness of the state's organized militia that includes the Ohio Army and Air National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve and Ohio Naval Reserve. Under Wayt's strategic, operational and fiscal leadership, the readiness rate of the Ohio National Guard has ranked to one of the top in the nation.

Wayt brings a wealth of skills and experience to the Board of Overseers in areas such as strategy, vision and mission planning; strategic and operational planning; organizational leadership and team building; executive development; policy and procedure development; organizational change; and process and performance improvement.

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, 80 organizations have received Baldrige Awards.

The Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) manages the Baldrige Award in close conjunction with the private sector. Further information on the Baldrige National Quality Program and the Baldrige Award is available at www.nist.gov/baldrige.