



Baldrige Performance Excellence Program

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Miriam N. Kmetzo Named to Panel of Judges for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award

GAITHERSBURG, Md.— The Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has announced that **MIRIAM N. KMETZO**, Executive Vice President at **WELDING TECHNOLOGY CORP (WTC)** in Farmington Hills, MI, has been named by the Secretary of Commerce to serve a three-year term (2015-2017) on the Panel of Judges for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The Baldrige Award is the nation's highest honor for organizational innovation and performance excellence.

All applicants for the Baldrige Award are evaluated rigorously by an independent board of examiners in seven areas defined by the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence: leadership; strategy; customers; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; workforce; operations; and results. Based on these assessments, the highest-ranking applicants are chosen for an on-site visit by a team of examiners to clarify questions and verify information in their applications. As one of 12 judges on the panel, Miriam Kmetzo will be responsible for selecting which applicants receive site visits, and ultimately, which applicants are recommended to the Secretary of Commerce as Baldrige Award recipients.

Miriam Kmetzo has been involved with the Baldrige Program since 1997 both at the national and state level. As Executive Vice President of WTC, Miriam has responsibility for Operations, Quality, Human Resources, and Industrial Technical Services (ITS).

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, 99 organizations have received Baldrige Awards.

NIST manages the Baldrige Award in close conjunction with the private sector.

The Baldrige Performance Excellence Program also offers the *2015–2016 Baldrige Excellence Framework: A Systems Approach to Improving Your Organization's Performance*, which includes the world-emulated Criteria for Performance Excellence; *Baldrige Excellence Builder*, an entry-level version of the framework; nationally ranked leadership training; and the Baldrige Collaborative Assessment and other assessment tools. 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>.