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BILLINGS APPOINTED EXAMINER FOR 2008 MALCOLM BALDRIGE NATIONAL QUALITY AWARD

SILVER CITY, N.M. – Mary Billings of Western New Mexico University has been appointed by Dr. James M. Turner, Acting Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), to the 2008 Board of Examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The Award, created by public law in 1987, is the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive.

As an examiner, Billings is responsible for reviewing and evaluating applications submitted for the Award. The board is composed of approximately 500 leading experts selected from industry, professional and trade organizations, education and health care organizations and government.

“Since 2005 I have served as an examiner for the New Mexico Quality program, which is modeled after Baldrige, but this is an entirely different experience,” said Billings. “It’s a very rigorous process, but the support I have received from WNMU, NIST and my teammates has been tremendous.”

Those selected meet the highest standards of qualification and peer recognition. All members of the board must take part in a preparation course based on the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence and the scoring and evaluation processes for the Baldrige Award.

Awards may be given annually in each of six categories: Manufacturing, Service, Small Business, Education, Health Care, and Non-profit. Awards have been presented to 74 organizations, including the 2007 Award recipients: PRO-TEC Coating Co., Mercy Health System, Sharp HealthCare, City of Coral Springs, and U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC).

Information about the Baldrige National Quality program and the application process is available from the Baldrige National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Bldg., Room A600, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 1020, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1020. Information can also be found on the Baldrige National Quality Program’s website at www.baldrige.nist.gov.

Located in Silver City, New Mexico, Western New Mexico University has served the people of the state of New Mexico and its surrounding areas as a comprehensive, regional, rural, public coeducational university since 1893 and caters to a student body diverse in age, culture, language and ethnic background.

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