## Patrick L. Townsend Mayberry Lecture Tennessee Tech University March 28, 2006 Quality and Performance Excellence Through Leadership Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award An abridged history

#### Two strengths of the Baldrige

- Self-assessment by any organization regardless of type or size
- Transfer of knowledge from company to company

#### "Hidden" strength ...

The Quest for Excellence Conference in Washington, D.C.

The best business conference in America year after year

#### Today's goal ...

To describe two efforts to "do" leadership-based quality and performance excellence in service organizations

# Complete Quality Process CQP approach deployed twice (1983-1987 and 2000-2005) with great success

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#### Seven Components of CQP

- Top Management Commitment
- Leadership
- 100% Employee Involvement with a structure
- Communications
- Training
- Measurement
- Recognition, Gratitude & Celebration

### With a structure ... Don't forget to ask the critical question. Is this it? "Who should we include in this effort to improve everything we do?" Rephrased... "Who do we have on the payroll who we think is smart enough to contribute to our efforts to improve everything we do?

## Implied ... "Who do we think is too stupid to contribute?" The better question ... "Who can we afford to exclude from the effort to improve everything we do?" The answer ... "Nobody" Welcome to 100% Employee Involvement

#### **CQP** at UICI Insurance Center

- Opening discussions February 2000
- Four half-day classes on leadership, participation, measurement, and "How do we this?" for managers and above March 2000
- Unanimous vote to proceed March 2000

#### **CQP** at UICI Insurance Center

- Three-day leadership classes for supervisors and above -April-August 2000
- Definition and design of CQP at UICI by Quality Department - April-September 2000
- Official launch of Quality First -September 14, 2000

#### Leadership

The creation of an environment in which others can self-actualize in the process of doing the job.

17 words

#### **CQP** at UICI Insurance Center

Structure for 100% Participation

- Every person on a Quality Team
- Team leaders trained
- A Quality Idea Tracking Program and Database available

#### **CQP** at UICI Insurance Center

**Pre-launch Communications** 

- Bi-weekly Quality Newsletter July 2000
- Regular e-mail updates about Quality First
- References to Quality First at all employee gatherings

More to come...

#### **CQP** at UICI Insurance Center

**Pre-launch Training** 

- Quality Team Leader training
- Leadership training
- One-on-one mentoring of Quality Team Leaders by Quality Department

More to come ...

## CQP at UICI Insurance Center Pre-Launch Measurement Quality Idea Tracking Program Basic statistics

#### **CQP** at UICI Insurance Center

Recognition, Gratitude & Celebration

- Recognition linked to certified ideas
- Annual and periodic celebrations
  More to come ...

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#### **CQP** at UICI Insurance Center

- Hard dollars calculated by monetary savings
- Soft dollars calculated by capacity for work

#### **CQP** at UICI Insurance Center

#### **Additional Benefits**

- Increased ratio of sales to employees
- Improvement in employee morale
- Lower turnover rate

#### The bottom line ...

- CQP satisfies the requirements of the Baldrige in a rational, replicable manner.
- It offers a way to convince folks that quality is achievable - as long as there is robust leadership.