



Schools' Outstanding Improvements Impact Student Achievement

Five teams from K-12 and higher education institutions have been named finalists in the Education Team Excellence Recognition awards. The awards, which showcase the nation's most outstanding improvement efforts, will be presented at the 21st annual National Quality Education Conference sponsored by ASQ.

Live finalist presentations will take place during the conference from Sunday, Nov. 17 to Monday, Nov. 18 at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee, WI. The award ceremony is Monday, Nov. 18. This year's finalists include:

- Kaneland Harter Middle School, Sugar Grove, IL—Project: Maximizing the Middle School Transition—Using Quality Tools to Help Acclimate Students and Parents, Sunday, Nov. 17, 10:15-11:30 a.m. This project showcases a comprehensive plan including student orientation, community Step-up Night, and summer Jump-Start program aligned to help students and parents better acclimate to middle school transitions.
- Ingenium Charter Elementary School, Canoga Park, CA—Project:

Continuous Improvement Drives Student Outcomes, Sunday, Nov. 17, 12:30-1:45 p.m. This school will share how it established, monitored, and evaluated an innovative data analysis process to drive outstanding results in student outcomes.

- Universidad Tecnológica Nacional—Facultad Regional Buenos Aires; C.A.B.A.; Argentina—Project: Improvement Project to Reduce the Time to Return Test Records, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2-3:15 p.m. This team demonstrates how they reduced the receiving time for examination records using quality improvement tools such as ISO 9001 and the plan-do-study-act (PDSA) cycle.
- University of Wisconsin–Stout, Menomonie, WI—Project: Apply Lesson Study to Improve Teaching Performance, Students' Critical Thinking and Learning Outcomes, Sunday, Nov. 17, 3:45-5 p.m. Instructors of quality and operation management courses share insights on how virtual modeling and lesson study enhanced students' critical thinking and learning outcomes.

- Kaneland School District, Maple Park, IL—Project: Hiring Really Does Make All the Difference—Bringing Panel Hiring to Your District, Monday, Nov. 18, 10:15–11:30 a.m. A team of Kaneland educators will highlight the benefits of holding panel interviews with multiple candidates being interviewed in one session. The district has seen a seven to 12 percent increase in student achievement scores in classrooms that have teachers who were hired through the panel process.

The Education Team Excellence Recognition process recognizes teams that are improving educational outcomes, stakeholder involvement, and school quality. Past honorees have used the PDSA method and other tools to improve math scores, close the achievement gap between schools, and lower employee healthcare costs by operating a highly efficient medical center within a school district.

During the conference, the five finalist teams will showcase their projects' successes. It will be a great opportunity to learn from other educators' best practices.