

Press Release



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For Immediate Release

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CRAIG LONG AWARDED THE MILLIKEN MEDAL OF QUALITY

Columbia, S.C. – During the SC Governor's Quality Award Conference on October 15, Craig Long, vice president and executive director of Performance Solutions by Milliken, was awarded the prestigious *Milliken Medal of Quality*. Governor Nikki Haley attended the awards ceremony to present the award.

The *Milliken Medal of Quality* recognizes South Carolinians of vision who have demonstrated leadership, innovation and outstanding achievement in the implementation of quality systems in their organizations and who have been an inspiration for others to follow. The first medal went to its namesake, Roger Milliken, former president and chief executive officer of Milliken and Company. Since that time, 13 distinguished South Carolinians have received the award.

Craig Long has spent his 40 year professional career with Milliken and Company, serving as leader of the Milliken Quality Process for the last 20 years. He was elected a corporate officer in 1997. He began his career with Milliken as an industrial engineer. Long's career experiences include product development, business management, corporate education, corporate recruiting and activity based costing. He ran several businesses before becoming director of quality in 1994. In 1997, Long was promoted to Vice President of Quality and Milliken University, then spearheaded the company's implementation of Six Sigma in 2004. He has led all Corporate Continuous Improvement processes and led several corporate study mission trips to Japan. Long was a member of the U.S. Quality Council of the Conference Board for 14 years and served as co-chair. He is a graduate of the Harvard Advanced Management Program.

Since winning the Malcom Baldrige Quality Award in 1989, Milliken has hosted over 10,000 companies to benchmark Milliken's best practices in quality.

In 1996, as a result of extensive study missions to Japan, Long led the development of the Milliken Performance System that took more than nine years to implement throughout Milliken and is now the basis of how Milliken teaches others in the principles of quality. In 2007, Long led Milliken's efforts in creating Milliken's consulting practice, Performance Solutions by Milliken, dedicated to helping other organizations obtain the levels of quality improvement that Milliken has been able to realize. Today, Performance Solutions by Milliken is the fastest growing business in Milliken and is currently active in over 350 operations in 23 countries.

The annual SC Governor's Quality Conference is sponsored by the South Carolina Quality Forum Steering Committee and their primary partner, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. The South Carolina Quality Forum was formed in 1991 to recognize and encourage improvements in quality and productivity by organizations throughout the state. For more information on the South Carolina Quality Forum and how you or your company can become involved, go to www.scquality.com.

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