

**GRANITE STATE QUALITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZES BOYNTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENT OF EXCELLENCE**

The Granite State Quality Council (GSQC) announced today that Boynton Middle School (BMS) in New Ipswich, NH, has earned the *Achievement of Excellence*, the highest level of recognition in the 2012 GSQC Awards and Recognition Program. This is the second year in a row that BMS has been recognized by the GSQC, receiving the foundation level Profile Recognition in 2011. The *Achievement of Excellence* level recognizes organizations that demonstrate quality and performance excellence defined by the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence. In part, BMS earned this recognition for its well-deployed, student-focused culture; its approach to engaging school stakeholders – especially parents and the community; and its cross-functional team structure and use of data to support the development of each of its 21st century students. All of these strengths have supported the continuous improvement of BMS' key student learning outcomes.

The *Achievement of Excellence* process involves the evaluation of a 50 page application followed by an intense on-site review conducted by a team of volunteer examiners trained in the Baldrige Criteria, which is recognized around the world as the standard for organizational performance excellence. Examiners not only determined a scoring range to verify the recognition level, but provided BMS a confidential feedback report on strengths and opportunities for improvement to support continued improvements based on the Education version of the Criteria.

Anne Warner, Executive Director of the Granite State Quality Council, said: "We congratulate the Boynton Middle School for this accomplishment. Earning the GSQC's highest level of recognition just one year after being recognized at the Profile foundation level is not easy to do and demonstrates the entire staff's dedication to their students and providing excellent education."

Boynton Middle School is a part of the Mascenic School District (SAU 87). Working under the leadership of former superintendent Dr. Leo Corriveau and the Mascenic School Board, Boynton Middle School, led by Principal Tom Starratt, has actively pursued the school district's strategic plan. "The teachers and staff recognize the need to provide a top notch education for our students in an effective and efficient manner that carefully uses our resources. Use of the Baldrige Criteria has provided us with guidance and focus to support both of these needs." said Mr. Starratt. Boynton Middle School will be recognized at the August State Board of Education meeting and in a public ceremony on Monday, August 20th where Principal Starratt and his team will share some of their best practices and how the Baldrige framework has guided their efforts.

The Granite State Quality Council is a nonprofit organization with the mission to "inspire and assist New Hampshire organizations in the achievement of Performance Excellence". The GSQC supports the sharing of best practices, offers training and coaching, and administers the state's Baldrige-based Awards and Recognition Program. For more information about the Boynton Middle School Recognition and Sharing event on August 20th, the recognition process, how to become an Awards Examiner, or about the GSQC, visit www.gsqc.com or contact the executive director at 1-603-321-1046 or anne@gsqc.com.