

**For Immediate Release:**  
July 22nd, 2021

**Contact:** NIST Public Affairs Office  
(301) 975-2762

## **Dr. H. Keith Wade Named to Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Examiners for 2021**

The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has named Dr. H. Keith Wade, President & CEO at Webber International University (Webber), headquartered in Babson Park, Florida, to the Board of Examiners for the 2021 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The Baldrige Award is the nation's highest honor for organizational innovation and performance excellence.

Appointed by the NIST Director, examiners are responsible for reviewing and evaluating applications submitted for the Baldrige Award, as well as other assessment-related tasks. The examiner board is composed of leading experts competitively selected from industry, professional, trade, education, health care, and nonprofit (including government) organizations from across the United States.

Those selected meet the highest standards of qualification and peer recognition, demonstrating competencies related to customer focus, communication, ethics, action orientation, team building, and analytical skills. All members of the board must take part in a nationally ranked leadership development course based on the Baldrige Excellence Framework and the scoring/evaluation processes for the Baldrige Award. They must also complete an independent review of a Baldrige Award application or other comparable examiner task.

Wade, who has been at Webber for 18 years, the last 13 as its President, holds a Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, in Management, a Master of Arts in Organizational Management, and a Doctor of Business Administration in Management. He holds an Advanced Professional Graduate Business Certificate in Marketing and an Advanced Professional Graduate Business Certificate in International Business. Wade is a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and is Certified in Financial Management (CFM). He is also a Six Sigma Black Belt with Lean Certification (LBBP). In addition to his work with the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, Wade is a member of the Executive Council and the Chair of the Florida Delegation to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), and a member of the Committee on Student Aid of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU).

Named after Malcolm Baldrige, the 26th Secretary of Commerce, the Baldrige Award was established by Congress in 1987. Awards may be given annually to organizations in each of six categories: manufacturing, service, small business, education, health care, and nonprofit. The Award promotes innovation and excellence in organizational performance, recognizes the achievements and results of U.S. organizations, and publicizes successful performance strategies. Since the first group was recognized in 1988, [134 awards have been presented to 124 organizations](#) (including eight two-time award recipients and one three-time recipient).

NIST manages the Baldrige Award in close conjunction with the private sector.

The Baldrige Performance Excellence Program also offers the *2021–2022 Baldrige Excellence Framework: Proven Leadership and Management Practices for High Performance*, *Baldrige Excellence Builder*, nationally ranked leadership training, and other assessment tools. For information on the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program and the Baldrige Award

application process, call (301) 975-2036, send an e-mail to [mbaldrige@nist.gov](mailto:mbaldrige@nist.gov), or visit <http://www.nist.gov/baldrige>.

Media with questions, needing background, or wishing to arrange interviews with Baldrige Program officials should contact the NIST Public Affairs Office at (301) 975-2762.