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The Alverno Health Care Facility to be Honored with National Award Recognizing Their Significant Achievement in the Delivery of Quality Care

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(July 1, 2010) The Alverno Health Care Facility, located in Clinton, Iowa has been recognized as a 2010 recipient of the *Silver – Achievement in Quality* National Quality Award presented by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), a trade organization with approximately 11,000 members nationwide. This year, 271 nursing home and assisted living communities from across the nation applied for the Silver Quality Award and the Alverno was one of 39 organizations to receive this award. The award will be formally presented to The Alverno during AHCA/NCAL's 61st Annual Convention and Exposition, October 10-13, 2010 in Long Beach, CA.

"We applaud the staff and leadership of The Alverno for demonstrating national distinction in their quest for performance excellence," stated Bruce Yarwood, President and CEO of AHCA/NCAL. "Being judged to be worthy of a Silver Quality Award demonstrated a commitment to a rigorous journey of continuous improvement and a good level of sustainable performance."

Implemented by AHCA/NCAL in 1996, The National Quality Award Program is based on the core values and criteria of the *Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Program*. It provides a pathway for providers of long term and post-acute care services to journey towards performance excellence. Facilities that apply for the Silver Quality Award, formerly known as the Step II Award, must demonstrate very good performance outcomes that have evolved from sustainable approaches to the core values and concepts of visionary leadership, focus on the future, resident-focused excellence, management by innovation, and focus on results and creating value. The award is judged by a Board of highly trained Examiners who come from within and outside of the long term care profession.

The Alverno has previously won the *Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award* and may now move forward to apply for the *Gold – Excellence in Quality Award* which requires them to address the Baldrige Program's Health Care Criteria for Performance Excellence in its entirety.

"We are very excited and tremendously proud to be a recipient of the *Silver – Achievement in Quality Award*," stated Libby Goodman, Administrator of The Alverno. "The Alverno has demonstrated our commitment to continuous quality improvement and we are focused on our mission to provide care for the aging through an environment and professional services which are life giving, supportive, and enabling for the aging person and for every member of the staff."

The awards are sponsored by AHCA/NCAL Associate Business Member McKesson Medical-Surgical, a leading distributor of medical supplies and equipment to physician practices, surgery centers, hospitals, home care, and extended care facilities, and My InnerView, a Web-based

applied research and quality-management company that supports leaders across the entire assisted living, senior housing and skilled nursing profession with tools to measure, benchmark and improve performance.

The Alverno Health Care Facility celebrated its 95th anniversary last year and was the first organization in Clinton, Iowa, dedicated to caring for the community's elderly population. Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Clinton, Iowa, the facility has a long tradition of providing quality care and support to those who are no longer able to care for themselves.

The original facility, Mount Alverno, opened in 1914. The facility was named after Saint Francis' mountain retreat of La Verna near Assisi. At the time, it was the only retirement/nursing facility in Clinton County. By the late 1960s, the Sisters of St. Francis made the decision to build a new facility. The building (still in use today) was built at 849 13th Avenue North in Clinton. When the new building opened on January 21, 1971, the name of the organization was changed to The Alverno Health Care Facility.

With the change in health care needs within the community over the years, The Alverno shifted its emphasis from a retirement/nursing home to providing complex nursing care for individuals who were sub-acutely and chronically ill. Today, The Alverno is proud to continue to serve Clinton and its surrounding communities. In addition to providing person centered, long-term and dementia care, The Alverno is able to provide rehabilitation and skilled nursing care to those looking to recover from injury or illness prior to returning to their homes. For information about The Alverno, call 563.242.1521 or go online to: www.TheAlverno.com.

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