



Chairman's Message Summer 2007

We have just concluded the largest conference event in Sterling's 15 year history. The 2007 Sterling Conference was a success in helping attendees to maximize their return through various keynote speeches and over 60 workshop sessions that provided tangible learning experiences for all participants. In addition, the Governor's Sterling Award cycle resulted in six Governor's Sterling Award recipients that were honored by the Lt. Governor on Friday, June 1, 2007. Congratulations to the 2007 Governor's Sterling Award recipients – Brevard County Schools; Division of Blind Services, Florida Department of Education; Howard D. McMillan Middle School; Landrum Professional Employer Services, Inc.; Miami VA Healthcare System; and Quest Diagnostics, South Florida Business Unit.

This past year was an exciting one for Sterling, and we are equally excited as we begin the new 2008 cycle. Examiner recruitment is well underway; at this early stage of recruitment we are at 61 percent retention rate for our experienced examiners with close to 300 examiners being actively recruited into the examiner corps. The deadline for examiner applications is August 31, 2007. We challenge you to apply as an examiner or encourage someone that you know to make the commitment to performance excellence. Sterling is fortunate to have so many dedicated quality examiners committed to our vision to make Florida a state of excellence.

Over the summer, Sterling will be offering several regional training sessions across the state. We will be offering 15 training classes between August and September in Tallahassee, Largo, Orlando, Jacksonville, Ft. Lauderdale, and Miami. Classes on Understanding the new 2008 Sterling Criteria, Leading to Performance Excellence, Balanced Scorecard, and Writing a Sterling Application will be offered. In addition, the six 2007 Governor's Sterling Award Recipients will be featuring "Great Practice" Open House Events in October showcasing the reasons why they won the Governor's Sterling Award. We encourage you to continue your learning and quest for knowledge through both the upcoming training sessions and Showcase events. Hope to see you there.

In closing, I would personally like to acknowledge the hard work of the Sterling staff as they have worked to successfully complete our 15th year. Their dedication and entrepreneurial spirit has made the Sterling Council the envy of other state award processes. Thank you to Abby, Dione, Heather, Jennifer, Jim, Lauren, Pat, and Perry for their hard work and loyalty to the Sterling Council. As was articulated by Jim Zingale in his keynote address at the annual conference, "you have helped Sterling to make a difference in the world."

I look forward to working with many of you over this next year as we address the challenges of a growing and ever changing competitive environment in Florida.

Thank you!

John A. Pieno
Chairman
Florida Sterling Council

"Enhancing Florida's competitive edge and quality of life through promotion, assessment,
and recognition of performance excellence."