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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Shyam Koppikar Receives ASQ-Certified Six Sigma Black Belt**

Milwaukee, WI, March 10, 2008 — The Certification Board of the American Society for Quality is pleased to announce that Shyam Koppikar has completed the requirements to be named an ASQ-Certified Six Sigma Black Belt (ASQ CSSBB). As such, Shyam Koppikar has reached a significant level of professional recognition, indicating a proficiency in and a comprehension of Six Sigma principles and practices. Individuals who earn this certification are allowed to use “ASQ CSSBB” on their business cards and professional correspondence.

“ASQ provides certification as a way to provide formal recognition to professionals who have demonstrated an understanding of, and a commitment to, quality techniques and practices in their job and career,” explains Mike Nichols, President, American Society for Quality. “This is a great accomplishment and, although not a formal registration or licensure, it represents a high level of peer recognition.”

A Certified Six Sigma Black Belt is a professional who applies Six Sigma philosophies and principles, including supporting systems and tools in a variety of business situations. A Black Belt demonstrates team leadership and manages team dynamics in all aspects of the DMAIC model (define, measure, analyze, improve, control) and can maintain Six Sigma principles. Black Belts understand lean enterprise concepts and can identify non-value-added activities using specific tools.

Since 1968, when the first ASQ certification examination was given, more than 100,000 individuals have taken the path to reaching their goal of becoming ASQ-Certified in their field or profession, including many of who have attained more than one designation. To learn more about ASQ’s Certified Six Sigma Black Belt program, visit <http://www.asq.org/certification/six-sigma/>.

The American Society for Quality, [www.asq.org](http://www.asq.org), has been the world's leading authority on quality for more than 60 years. With more than 93,000 individual and organizational members, the professional association advances learning, quality improvement, and knowledge exchange to improve business results, and to create better workplaces and communities worldwide. As champion of the quality movement, ASQ offers technologies, concepts, tools, and training to quality professionals, quality practitioners, and everyday consumers, encouraging all to Make Good Great®. ASQ has been the sole administrator of the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award since 1991. Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., ASQ is a founding partner of the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), a prominent Quarterly economic indicator, and also produces the Quarterly Quality Report.

## **Press Release for Employee Certification Achievement 2007-2008**

The American Society for Quality (ASQ) is providing this news release for the announcement of your recent success in becoming ASQ certified. Please make sure all of your information is correct and provide the release to your employer for distribution to local newspapers, your professional affiliations and associations, and any other outlet that would be interested. In addition, your employer may want to post this announcement on your company's Web site or Intranet site. The following information may be useful to you in discussing the news release distribution with your organization's leaders:

### **Why should your company distribute a press release to announce an ASQ certification achievement?**

When employees complete the rigorous studying and preparation process to achieve an ASQ certification, they appreciate recognition for their efforts from their company leadership and colleagues. This release can also provide greater awareness for your organization's commitment to quality, and its dedication to employee training and education.

To distribute a press release to local media, visit the publication's website to find submission guidelines in the "contact us" section of the site. If you have any questions or would like more information about ASQ, please e-mail Megan Fischer at [help@asq.org](mailto:help@asq.org).