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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Stephen C. Smith Receives ASQ-Certified Quality Auditor**

Milwaukee, WI, June 11, 2010 — The Certification Board of ASQ (American Society for Quality) is pleased to announce that Stephen C. Smith has completed the requirements to be named an ASQ-Certified Quality Auditor (ASQ CQA). As such, Stephen C. Smith has reached a significant level of professional recognition, indicating a proficiency in and a comprehension of quality auditing tools and techniques. Individuals who earn this certification are allowed to use “ASQ CQA” 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 Peter Andres, ASQ president. “This is a great accomplishment and, although not a formal registration or licensure, it represents a high level of peer recognition.”

In order to sit for the CQA examination, an individual must have eight years of on-the-job experience in one or more of the areas of the CQA body of knowledge, and three of those years must be in a decision-making position. CQAs apply a variety of auditing techniques in examining and evaluating products, processes, and quality systems against specific standards. CQAs also plan, develop, communicate, and execute an audit within a defined scope, applying management skills to teams and projects, use appropriate tools and methodologies to verify, document, and communicate audit results, and evaluate the effectiveness of corrective actions.

Since 1968, when the first ASQ certification examination was given, more than 163,000 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 Quality Auditor program, visit <http://www.asq.org/certification/quality-auditor/>.

ASQ, [www.asq.org](http://www.asq.org), has been the world’s leading authority on quality for more than 60 years. With more than 85,000 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. ASQ has been the sole administrator of the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award since 1991. Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., ASQ is a founding sponsor of the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI).

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