



Media Contact:

Mark Driscoll

Sugar Grove Ace

630 409 6876

SugarGroveAce@gmail.com

**SUGAR GROVE ACE ACHIEVES HIGHEST LEVEL OF RECOGNITION FROM ACE
HARDWARE CORPORATION FOR EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE**

Neighborhood store recognized as a top performing retail location

Sugar Grove, IL February 22nd 2016 – Ace Hardware Corporation is pleased to announce that Sugar Grove Ace achieved designation as a “Pinnacle Performance Retailing” store for its outstanding performance in 2015. Developed as part of Ace’s long-term retail growth strategy, 20/20 Vision, Pinnacle Performance Retailing is laser-focused on Ace’s customers, helping to ensure that Ace stores deliver on its brand promise day in and day out.

For more than 90 years, Ace Hardware has been serving its neighbors with helpful service and quality products. With more than 4,800 stores in more than 60 countries, the team at Sugar Grove Ace is one of only 475 Ace retailers to achieve this prestigious Pinnacle status in 2015. To achieve Pinnacle Performance Retailing, the team at Sugar Grove Ace successfully completed eight performance drivers that will help them provide a better overall shopping experience in their local community.

One example of a proven performance driver is “Helpful Certification,” the foundational element of Ace’s “Certified Ace Helpful” retail training curriculum. To become certified, Ace Hardware associates complete courses such as Helpful 101 and 201 and the store conducts a week-long team-based certification event.

“For a store to achieve Pinnacle Performance Retailing is an outstanding accomplishment, and for this store to achieve it in its first full year of operation is incredible” said Dan Miller, Vice President, Retail Operations and New Business, Ace Hardware Corporation. “We’re pleased to recognize Sugar Grove Ace and its associates for their outstanding achievements, and proud to say they’re a part of the Ace family.”

“The team at Sugar Grove Ace is incredibly pleased to have earned the status as a Pinnacle Performance Retailing store,” said Mark Driscoll, Owner of Sugar Grove Ace. “What this means for our customers is that we are more committed than ever to providing our loyal shoppers with the best possible retail experience; from customer service to product offerings and more, we’re taking ‘Ace helpful’ to a new level.”

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About Ace Hardware

For more than 90 years, Ace Hardware has been known as the place with the helpful hardware folks in thousands of neighborhoods across America, providing customers with a more personal kind of helpful. In 2014, Ace ranked “Highest in Customer Satisfaction with Home Improvement Retail Stores, Eight Years in a Row,” according to J.D. Power. With more than 4,800 hardware stores locally owned and operated across the globe, Ace is the largest retailer-owned hardware cooperative in the world. Headquartered in Oak Brook, Ill., Ace and its subsidiaries currently operate 17 distribution centers in the U.S. and also have distribution capabilities in Shanghai, China; Panama City, Panama; and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Its retailers’ stores are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and approximately 60 countries. For more information on Ace, visit www.acehardware.com.