

# MACOMB DAILY

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ROMULUS, Mich. – Michigan Performance Excellence (MIPex) awarded Special Tree Rehabilitation, a neurorehabilitation provider, with the 2020 Michigan Performance Excellence Award, the first time the award has been bestowed since 2012.

The highest award given in the state of Michigan to recognize companies that perform at a superior level, this award demonstrates both clinical and business outcomes, prizing agility, adaptability and overall best practices in every realm, shared Mark Mac Aleese, Special Tree Chief Quality Officer.

“This really highlights that we are a high-quality organization,” Mac Aleese says. “From our executive level to staff on the floor, we are aligned with the same mission, vision and values, and we have great communication and excellent clinical outcomes.”

For Special Tree, receiving this award demonstrates to insurance companies, physicians, hospital systems and other partners a high level of effectiveness, efficiency, and performance, Mac Aleese notes. He credits technological advancements such as adding the ZeroG system, a new internal lab and other efforts toward moving them forward to this level of quality.

Formed in 1984 as the Michigan Quality Council, MIPex strives to improve the competitiveness of Michigan organizations toward improving quality of life in the state, says Geri Markley, MIPex Executive Director. The organization has no state funding, and all award determinations are performed by volunteer examiners, she says.

“Special Tree has exhibited systematic, well-deployed processes that answer the questions of the criteria,” Markley says. “They also have demonstrated a systematic evaluation and improvement of those processes, so it’s not just one-and done. They demonstrate results, address client expectations and workforce engagement.”

The last time any organization received this award was 2012, confirms Markley. Every year, organizations apply, and some advance in the examination process, she notes. But no organization has reached the level of award recipient until now.

MIPex serves all organizations and all industries, including healthcare, nonprofit, education and others. The rigorous evaluation process takes months to complete. In Special Tree’s case, more than 100 people were interviewed and 16 sites visited to determine its award status, Markley confirms.

MIPex uses the [national Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence](#) as its framework. Special Tree completed a 50-page application before MIPex examiners spent 12-15 weeks to evaluate the organization. Special Tree received the award once before, in 2010.