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**FOR RELEASE ON August 1, 2018****AHE Presents: 2018 Innovation Award**

CHICAGO, August 1, 2018 – The Association for the Health Care Environment (AHE), of the American Hospital Association, has announced the recipient of the 2018 AHE Innovation Award.

This award was developed to recognize and increase awareness of Products, Processes, and Technology Advancements that empower individuals to improve measured outcomes in caring for the health care environment. AHE looks to challenge the existing expectations of performance, behavior, engineering, and quality outcomes through innovation.

This year's recipient of the prestigious AHE Innovation Award is Karcher North America, for their BV 5/1 BP battery backpack vacuum. The BV 5/1 BP is a battery operated backpack vacuum. This vacuum provides excellent cleaning performance with increased productivity and safety.

Honorable mentions were awarded to: KleenEdge, LLC, for their KleenEdge Cubicle Curtain Protocol Technology and Ecolab, for their No/Low Maintenance Floor Cleaner and Protector.

All awards will be presented at EXCHANGE 2018 September 23-26 in Columbus, Ohio. For more information about AHE Awards and Recognition Program, visit www.ahe.org/awards or call 312.422.3860.

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About AHE

The Association for the Health Care Environment (AHE) is a Professional Membership Group of the American Hospital Association. AHE is the professional organization of choice for professionals responsible for caring for the patient and resident care environment across all care settings; including hospitals, long term care, continuing care retirement communities and ambulatory care. AHE shapes professional practice, advances and promotes the profession and promotes awareness for over 2,300 professionals working to ensure a clean and safe health care environment and quality outcomes. www.ahe.org