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### **PRESS RELEASE**

## ***“RONALD LAPORTE TO LEAD BERGMANN’S CAPITAL AREA GROWTH***

**Albany, NY, November 22, 2010** – As the new Albany - Regional Office Manager and Higher Education Business Leader for Bergmann Associates, an Architecture/Engineering firm based in Rochester, LaPorte is overseeing a period of growth in what has been a tough economy for many architectural firms. Hired in April of this year for his leadership reputation and client focused experience, LaPorte views customer service as the competitive differentiator in today’s difficult economic environment.

“True customer service is adopting your client’s mission, coming alongside them and becoming a trusted advisor in helping them exceed their goals.” Having “grown-up” professionally in the retail environment of the supermarket industry, as the Corporate Architect for Hannaford during their expansion into the Albany market in the 90’s, LaPorte learned first-hand, that the purpose of his position was the satisfaction of the customer and their experience while shopping.

LaPorte then entered into the Higher Education market as the Director of Facilities Planning at The Sage Colleges during “Project Jumpstart,” bringing their facilities into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. With a focus on the students and faculty as “customers,” LaPorte brought a unique design approach to the facilities’ needs of Sage’s two campuses.

Retail-Commercial and Higher Education design, are two of Bergmann Associates’ specialty areas, so Ron’s background was a natural fit. Bergmann is fortunate to have a workload that consists of 95% repeat clients, several for over 20 years. The Albany office has been busy serving clients such as Dinosaur Barbeque, TD Bank, Walmart, Wegmans, The Walkway Over the Hudson, Sunoco, SUNY, the University of Rochester and The Rochester Institute of Technology. With a current staff of 20 architects and engineers, Bergmann hopes to grow its Albany office to 50 people in the next two years under LaPorte’s guidance.

Customer service is central to the firm’s growth during the current economic difficulties. “Clients are looking for consultants that bring more than just a commodity service,” says LaPorte. “They need team members that bring creative ideas to help them deliver their programs in a difficult economic environment.”

LaPorte received his Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture from Syracuse University and obtained his NYS License to practice architecture in 1987. Since then, he has become NCARB Certified, licensed in over 20 states and a LEED Accredited Professional. LaPorte is a member of the American Institute of Architects, and lives in Schaghticoke with his wife and youngest son, a junior at Loudonville Christian School. His daughter is a Second Grade teacher in Seoul, South Korea. Having also taught in Kosovo and Ethiopia, she will be relocating to Bolivia in the coming year. LaPorte’s other son graduated from RPI and is a computer programmer for Agora Games in Troy.

### **About Bergmann Associates**

*Bergmann Associates is a progressive, forward-thinking engineering and architectural design firm with three decades of success providing multi-disciplinary services to clients throughout the United States. Headquartered in Rochester, NY, Bergmann has eight U.S. offices and 340 professional and technical staff featuring talented planners, architects, interior designers, landscape architects, programmers, developers, structural, civil, environmental, mechanical, electrical, and industrial engineers. – Our **People** and Our **Passion** in Every **Project**.*

