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Margulies & Associates Earns Accolades, LEED Silver Certification for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

BOSTON – Margulies & Associates, one of Boston’s most innovative architectural and interior design firms, announced that the new South Shore headquarters it designed for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA) has been awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver certification by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), as well as two distinctive awards: the Best Practice Award of Excellence by IFMA Boston and a Sustainable Design Commendation by CoreNet Global.

With these achievements, BCBSMA/Hingham has won four awards to date, including the previously announced 2008 Project of the Year by the Associated Subcontractors of Massachusetts, and the International Illumination Design Awards (IIDA) program of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA), New England Section. The BCBSMA member services facility, located at 25 Technology Place in Hingham, Mass., is the more recent of two LEED certified buildings for BCBSMA within the last two years. Margulies & Associates also completed the renovation of BCBSMA’s 345,000 square foot facility in North Quincy, Mass., which was awarded LEED certification in 2006.

“With each successive project, the level of green design practices and techniques implemented has increased, making this new facility our most sustainable building,” said Larry Healey, director of real estate and design and planning at BCBSMA. “By developing and refining those aspects of sustainable design that also meet the need of reducing costs, BCBSMA is providing a state-of-the-art workplace designed with the health and comfort of its employees, and the natural environment, in mind.”

Completed in June 2007, the new, four-story, 329,000 square foot office building in Hingham includes a multi-purpose cafeteria space, conference/training center, major data center and child care facility. A five-level, 1,184-car parking structure is linked directly to the main lobby by an all-weather connection. Currently accommodating 1,100 BCBSMA employees, the facility was designed to allow for future expansion with no additional infrastructure required.

“With this new, green facility, BCBSMA recognized an opportunity to develop sustainable design, while providing the best quality work environment for its associates,” said Daniel P. Perruzzi, Jr., AIA, principal of Margulies & Associates. “We are proud to

once again assist BCBSMA in accomplishing these worthy goals. This project illustrates the ability of good corporate leadership to influence change, at little or no expense, and provide an environmentally conscious, best-in-class facility.

LEED Silver Certification from USGBC

The green design aspects of the building will result in 21% energy savings and 20% water savings per year over the national average for a traditional office building. The new structure focuses on indoor air quality, natural light and integration with the building's natural surroundings, all while reducing energy usage and costs. Site clearing and re-grading were minimized to preserve as many trees as possible and to allow the building to nestle into its surroundings.

The LEED Green Building Rating System™ is an independent, third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance.