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GRUNAU COMPANY “LEEDING” THE WAY IN GREEN BUILDING

OAK CREEK, Wis. (August 1, 2005) — Two Grunau Company employees recently passed the LEED certification exam, making the Oak Creek-based company the first mechanical contractor in Wisconsin to have LEED Accredited Professionals on staff.

Sarah Meyer and Jessica Rauch, both design engineers, passed the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) examination, obtaining their accreditation in the LEED-NC category which recognizes them as experts in green building techniques for new commercial construction and major renovation projects.

The LEED Green Building Rating System[®], created by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), is a framework of national standards for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings that exhibit environmental leadership in their design.

To earn their accreditation, Meyer and Rauch had to demonstrate proficiency in LEED documentation requirements and strategies within the contracting industry, as well as the overall benefits of the LEED process. They also needed strong knowledge of green building principles.

“I believe LEED is something that will be extremely important to owners and building planners in the future,” commented Rauch. “Understanding and embracing LEED helps Grunau stay on the cutting edge.”

Grunau is on the forefront of the LEED process among mechanical contractors, according to a USGBC representative who noted that architects and engineers far outnumber any type of contractor in terms of LEED accreditation. With the LEED accreditation of Meyer and Rauch, Grunau can establish itself as a leader in green building.

“The construction industry is increasingly looking to use LEED concepts in its buildings,” said Meyer. “Our accreditation sets Grunau apart from other contractors. It allows us to stay a step ahead of those who have never done this type of work before.”

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Taking this kind of initiative is standard practice at Grunau.

“We encourage our employees to challenge themselves and to learn the latest techniques that the industry can offer. We’re excited that Sarah and Jessica have taken that opportunity with their LEED accreditation,” said Paul Grunau, president and CEO. “LEED standards are another step in Grunau’s commitment to excellence in project solutions. It allows us to better serve our clients.”

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is the nation’s foremost coalition of leaders from across the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to live and work. Council members worked together to develop the LEED standards and process, which launched in 2000, following a national test program. As the leading organization representing the entire industry on environmental building matters, USGBC’s unique perspective and collective power provides members with enormous opportunity to effect change in the way buildings are designed, built and maintained.

Grunau Company’s team of skilled professionals designs, installs and services mechanical systems, including HVAC, plumbing, fire protection and specialized electrical systems. Grunau Metals, a separate division of the company, offers specialty metal fabrication services. Grunau teams operate as customer advocates, pinpointing the best solutions to complex projects and embracing a strategic approach to identify and prevent problems. Grunau has offices in Wisconsin, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Grunau Company, established in 1920, employs 500 people and is headquartered in Oak Creek, Wis.

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