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Pepper Construction Group Announces Leadership Promotions *Top Midwest Contractor taps established leaders for Senior Vice President roles*

CHICAGO, IL – February 13, 2023 Pepper Construction Group has promoted three key roles to Senior Vice President at the corporate level, each leading teams supporting the firm's operations in five locations.

As Senior Vice President of High Performance and Sustainable Construction, **Susan Heinking**, AIA, NCARB, LEED Fellow, leads more than \$2.4 billion in high-performance work for Pepper Construction. As a licensed architect, she brings to the role more than 17-years of experience designing and managing sustainability programs and initiatives in the building industry. Her foresight has established Pepper as the leading provider of high performance construction services, a strategic method that connects building performance to human performance. Heinking elevated Pepper's construction services by introducing energy modeling, ROI analysis and promoting the use of healthy materials and construction practices to protect the long-term health of construction workers. Heinking ideated and designed Pepper's Net Zero jobsite trailer, activating Pepper's commitment to sustainability for their field teams. Together, these efforts put design into action, helping clients make better decisions, assisting them with corporate environmental compliance and leading the built world on a path to net zero.

The youngest person to ever earn LEED Fellow, her industry contributions include serving on the Board of Illinois Green Alliance, AIA2030 Chicago Working Group, and co-chairing Chicago's AIA COTE knowledge group. Heinking is currently serving as Commercial Building Chair for the Illinois Capital Development Board's Illinois Energy Code Advisory Council. She has won several awards including Crain's Chicago Notable Leaders in Sustainability as well as been named to both ENR and BD+C's 20 under 40 list. Heinking holds a Master of Architecture from the University of Oregon and is an active presenter at industry conventions.

Jennifer Suerth, LEED AP, brings to her role as Senior Vice President of Virtual Construction, MEP and Operations Technology more than 16 years of experience in architecture, engineering and construction. She provides strategic direction for the company in these areas and serves as a key advisor to project teams on constructability and implementation strategies throughout the early stages of project design and development through construction and facility management. In her new role, she will help deliver a consistent experience for clients, aligning technology with the firm's operational needs from the office to the field. This includes setting standards across all locations, improving workflows and ensuring technology is consistently implemented and teams are thoroughly trained.

Suerth's career spans award-winning structural engineering projects, leading our industry to adopt 3D design and construction practices while serving as one of the foremost thought leaders, conference speakers and interviewees on the use of virtual construction technology to deliver better buildings more efficiently. She has been recognized among Crain's Notable Women in Stem, BD+C's 40 Under 40, Builtworlds Top 50 Technology Adoptions Leaders, Women in Construction by Constructech Magazine, Chicago Building Congress Future Leaders and ENR Midwest's Top 20 Under 40.

As Senior Vice President of Finance, **Stephanie Vitner** oversees all aspects of Pepper Construction Group's accounting services. Vitner brings more than 20 years of experience to the leadership of Pepper's financial teams, including all corporate accounting services and finance functions, reporting and analysis, payroll, planning and forecasting, serves as a liaison to the company's auditors, and ensures that Pepper remains in compliance with all regulatory, tax and treasury requirements.

Vitner will ensure the integrity of the company's financial data while streamlining systems to provide the most meaningful financial information in support of Pepper's strategic and operational goals. She is a member of the AICPA, the Illinois CPA Society and Construction Financial Management Association. Vitner holds a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and a master's degree from the University of Notre Dame.

(Cont.)

About Pepper

Now in their fourth generation of family leadership, Pepper Construction serves clients across the country with comprehensive teams in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin. Ranked by ENR (Engineering News Report) magazine as one of the top builders of sustainable projects in the nation, Pepper serves clients in a variety of markets such as aerospace, healthcare, science and technology, education, manufacturing and industrial, data centers, entertainment, hospitality and interiors, among others. Pepper's High Performance and Sustainable Construction group is part of their Integrated Construction Services (ICS) team, which represents some of the most advanced thought leadership in our industry – investigating new technologies, evaluating new methodologies and integrating innovative solutions in the field. For more information, please visit www.pepperconstruction.com.

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