



## **Universal Forest Products Western Division President Pat Webster to Become President and COO**

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Webster to be Succeeded in West by Former Regional VP Dick Frazier

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Michael B. Glenn, president and chief executive officer of Universal Forest Products, Inc. (Nasdaq: UFPI) today announced the appointment of Pat Webster, president of Universal Western Division and a 24-year veteran of the Company, as president and chief operating officer of the corporation, effective January 1, 2009. Webster will be succeeded in the West by Dick Frazier, a former regional vice president who has been with Universal for 23 years. The appointments were approved by the Board of Directors at their Oct. 15, 2008 meeting.

Glenn said the appointments come at a critical time, as the company is developing strategies and initiatives for long-term growth and opportunity against the backdrop of a difficult economy. "Universal has many opportunities for success in these turbulent times and beyond, and no one is better qualified to help drive our success and growth than Pat and Dick," he said. "They're highly respected by employees, customers and leaders in the industry and, with their knowledge and years of experience, they'll help us achieve critical short- and long-term goals."

"This marks a great new era of leadership at Universal," added Executive Chairman William G. Currie, who will retire as an active employee of the Company in July 2009. "Mike Glenn has created the strongest leadership team in the industry. Putting Pat and Dick in these vital positions is good for the company, its employees, shareholders and stakeholders--and its future."

Webster began his career at Universal in January 1985, as a trainee at the Company's Grand Rapids, Mich., headquarters. He then worked in sales in Illinois and, in 1986, became a buyer for the purchasing department of the then-Midwest Company. He was promoted to director of that department and then to vice president of purchasing for Universal's then-Far West Company.

In 1996, Webster became general manager of operations at the Company's Woodburn, Ore., plant. A year later, he was promoted to vice president of operations. In 1998, he was promoted to vice president of the Far West Region and, in July 2007, he became president of the Western Division, one of the Company's two operating divisions. Noting Webster's breadth of experience, Glenn said: "Pat's thorough understanding of our business, customers, vendor mills and employees gives him a unique perspective and opportunity to help take Universal into the next decade and beyond. He's a strong consensus builder and leader, and will be an excellent chief operating officer for our company."

Webster said he is honored to be trusted with the vast responsibility of the position and looks forward to helping create new opportunities for growth. "Universal's success and strong reputation have been built by hardworking people who make it a better place day by day," Webster said. "I look forward to continuing to serve the Company in this new role and to working with the best employees in the industry to grow our success. I'll work hard to live up to the high standards of the company and its people."

Frazier joined Universal in 1985 as vice president of the Southwest Region, a position he held until Jan. 1, 2008, when he took on a new position to work on special projects throughout the company, focused on continuous improvement and on assisting underperforming operations. "Dick is the best lumberman in America," Glenn said. "He was always the strongest performer in our company--and perhaps in its history--and he consistently led his operations to new heights. The man knows how to create profitability."

"I look forward to the opportunity to work with the strong team in the West to bring its operations through these tough economic times stronger for the battle, and ready for new and significant growth," Frazier said.

Headquartered in Grand Rapids, Mich., with approximately 85 facilities throughout North America, Universal Forest Products engineers, manufactures and markets wood and wood-alternative products for DIY/retail home centers, structural lumber products for the manufactured housing industry, engineered wood components for the site-built construction market, and specialty wood packaging and components for various industries. The 53-year-old Company also provides framing services for the site-built market and forms for concrete construction. For 2007, the Company reported sales of more than \$2.5 billion. For information about Universal Forest Products, visit [www.ufpi.com](http://www.ufpi.com).

Please be aware that: Any statements included in this press release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Such forward-looking statements are based on the beliefs of the Company's management as well as on assumptions made by, and information currently available to, the Company at the time such statements were made. The Company does not undertake to update forward-looking statements to reflect facts, circumstances, assumptions or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made. Actual results could differ materially from those included in such forward-looking statements. Investors are cautioned that all forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainty. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from forward-looking statements are the following: Adverse lumber market trends, competitive activity, negative economic trends,

government regulations and weather. Certain of these risk factors and additional information are included in the Company's reports on Forms 10-K and 10-Q on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Source: Universal Forest Products