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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## LaForce Appoints New CEO

Brian Mannering has been appointed President/CEO of LaForce, Inc. Former CEO, Ken Metzler, will continue at LaForce in the role of Chairman of the Board.

Brian started at LaForce in 1987 in Shipping/Receiving. While working full-time for LaForce, he attended Cardinal Stritch University, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Upon graduation, Brian moved through several more positions with increasing responsibility, including estimating, project management, and sales. Brian was appointed Sales Manager and, later, Vice President of Sales. Since 2007, Brian has been LaForce's President, adding the CEO title in May 2016.

Over the years, Brian has solidified many crucial relationships with LaForce colleagues, customers, vendors, and other stakeholders. He manages the daily operations of the nearly 500-employee company, directs a management staff of more than 20, and oversees communications with vendors and clients to foster strong business relationships.

Ken started at LaForce in 1979 as an Estimator, after earning his Bachelor's Degree in Construction Administration from UW-Madison. He managed several LaForce departments throughout his early tenure, including Hardware Purchasing, Building Specialties, Engineering/Project Management, and the manufacturing plant. Ken became the Vice President of LaForce in 1990, and took on the role of President/COO in 1997. Since 2007, Ken has been CEO/Chairman for LaForce, and as of May 2016, serves as Chairman of the Board.

Besides overseeing much of LaForce's incredible growth over the years, Ken is active in the door, frame, and hardware industry's national association: the Door and Hardware Institute (DHI). He earned his Architectural Hardware Consultant (AHC) certificate from DHI in 1985. The Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association (BHMA) awarded Ken the 2004 Award of Excellence. From 2006 to 2012, Ken served on DHI's Board of Governors, and was the organization's President from 2010 to 2011. In 2012, DHI awarded Ken the "Fellow" title, and in 2015, DHI selected Ken to receive the "Founders Award." This award recognizes an individual who has contributed significant and outstanding service to the Institute and to the architectural openings industry over an extended period of time.

With this leadership transition, LaForce will benefit from Ken's guidance and wisdom in addition to Brian's many years of experience. The company is fortunate to have well-respected and long-tenured industry leaders at the helm. Looking to the future, LaForce will continue to position itself as a reliable source for a wide range of products and services.

**About LaForce:**

*Since its establishment in 1954, LaForce, Inc. has grown to become one of the largest distributors of doors, frames, hardware, security, and building specialties in the United States. The company's services include custom manufacturing of doors and frames, product installation, pre-installation, pre-finishing, security integration, specification writing, fire door inspections, and keying. Headquartered in Green Bay, WI, LaForce operates 11 additional locations throughout the country. For more information on LaForce, Inc., please visit [www.laforceinc.com](http://www.laforceinc.com).*

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