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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HD Supply Facilities Maintenance Increases Expertise
With Industry Recognized Certification**

Leading national hospitality supplier demonstrates its continuing commitment to the hospitality industry with ongoing training

San Diego, CA – November 18, 2010 – HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, a leading single-source supplier to the hospitality industry, today announced that 29 associates recently obtained the Certified Master Hotel Supplier (CMHS) designation. This certified designation is considered by the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute to be the highest honor for professional excellence offered to suppliers of products and services to the hospitality industry.

With the addition of these associates, the company now boasts a total of 39 designees, which includes associates in sales, merchandising and marketing. Additional HD Supply associates will apply for the CMHS program in 2011.

“As a professional supplier, it is important that we have a deep understanding of the hotel industry. Our associates have the knowledge and expertise to provide value added services. Achieving the designation supports our mission to be Committed, Dependable and Expert and provide more than just products to our customers, we provide solutions,” said David Kahn, CMHS – HD Supply vice president of hospitality.

The company has a history of commitment to both its hospitality customers and the industry. The company is a founding sponsor of greenlodgingnews.com and supports the following industry associations:

- American Hotel & Lodging Association – Allied Member (Sponsor of the AH&LA Stars of the Industry, Legislative Action Summit and the AHL&EF Golf Classic)
- Founding Sponsor of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association
- National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators and Developers
- American Resort Development Association

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“HD Supply has consistently displayed dedication to the industry through committee participation and sponsorships,” said Robert L. Steele III, CHA – president and COO of the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute (AHLEI). “By supporting so many employees through the CMHS program, they have taken that support to the next level.”

Over the past year, the Certification Commission of the Educational Institute and AH&LA’s Allied Executive Committee voted to update the Master Hotel Supply (MHS) program to better meet the needs of hospitality suppliers. The change included the designation of a certification to elevate respect of the program among hoteliers. The program now includes a lengthy preparation course and materials and concludes with a comprehensive test that must be passed by 70 percent to earn the certification. Additionally – in order to maintain certification – designees must remain involved in the industry earning re-certification points by attending conferences, seminars, serving on association committees and staying employed in the industry.

Throughout 2010, HD Supply has continued to invest in the hospitality industry despite the difficult economic conditions. “We are committed to providing the best products, fulfillment, support and services in the industry. Our participation in the CMHS program emphasizes that commitment,” said Kahn.

About HD Supply Facilities Maintenance

HD Supply Facilities Maintenance is a leading supplier of maintenance, repair and operating (MRO) products to owners and managers of multifamily, hospitality, educational and commercial properties; healthcare providers; and municipal and government facilities. HD Supply Facilities Maintenance has 36 distribution centers nationwide, a fleet of more than 600 delivery vehicles and more than 22,000 products. For additional information about HD Supply, contact Angela Brooks at 770-852-9004 or e-mail angela.brooks@hdsupply.com.

About AHLEI

Established in 1953 as a nonprofit educational foundation of the American Hotel & Lodging Association, the Educational Institute’s mission is to support AH&LA by becoming the preferred provider to the lodging industry, hospitality schools, and related hospitality industries both domestically and internationally by developing and providing quality resources to train, educate, and certify hospitality professionals.

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