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New Leadership Roles at PlanSmart NJ

Trenton: After 20 years at the helm, PlanSmart NJ President Dianne Brake is moving into the position of Senior Policy Advisor for the organization. Ann Brady, who began her career at PlanSmart NJ as project planner and has been the organization's Vice President for the last 12 years, will assume the position of Interim President on January 1, 2011.

Speaking on behalf of the 42-year old Trenton-based organization was Board Chairman Dr. Raymond Ferrara, Principal at Omni Environmental. "Dianne has brought her vision, intelligence and natural good humor to the challenge of bringing single-issue stakeholders together to meet state and regional goals. Under her leadership, PlanSmart NJ has become a beacon in the dark for policy matters in New Jersey for more than 20 years, building its reputation for balance, innovation and professionalism."

Dr. Ferrara continued, "We always recognized that retirement was out there on the 'someday' horizon for Dianne. And while we regret that she has chosen to reduce her responsibilities to spend more time with her son and grandchildren, we are delighted that Dianne will be able to continue to serve New Jersey as PlanSmart NJ's Senior Policy Advisor. We want our members and supporters to know that PlanSmart NJ's Board of Directors is committed to continuing Dianne's innovative work."

"To ensure a seamless transition during the search for a new President, PlanSmart NJ's Board of Directors has selected Ann Brady to assume the position of Interim President," Dr. Ferrara said. "Ann has in-depth knowledge of all aspects of the organization and its work. She has worked side-by-side with Dianne for many years, and has the strengths and skills the organization needs today to meet New Jersey's challenges."

He said that a Leadership Transition Committee, chaired by Board member Mark Solomon, an attorney with Pepper Hamilton in West Windsor, has been established to

oversee the transition process.

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Ms. Brady came to PlanSmart NJ in 1992 as a project planner with both transportation and environmental planning experience from Maryland and Alaska and land use experience from Burlington County, New Jersey.

As a project planner, Ms. Brady spearheaded the development of innovative planning tools to improve transportation in the Route 1 and Route 130 Corridors, open space planning for the Mercer County Green Links Project and water resource protection in two watershed management projects. She was also the primary author of PlanSmart NJ's 2001 publication, *The Green Infrastructure Guide*, an introduction for municipal planning board members on how to use the landscape to provide flood control, pollution prevention and other infrastructure functions as they make plans to develop and conserve land.

As Vice President for the last 12 years, Ms. Brady assumed responsibilities for PlanSmart NJ's day-to-day operations. These include resource development, event planning and serving both Board members and PlanSmart NJ supporters.

Ms. Brady led the organization in a capital campaign which helped PlanSmart NJ to purchase its current headquarters on West State Street in Trenton directly across from the State Capitol. In 2010, working closely with the Board, Ann raised nearly 90% of the organization's revenues.

"We pledge to continue to fight for transformative policies that will move New Jersey toward a better future," said Dr. Ferrara. "The Board of Directors is confident that Ann's skills and experience will maintain our position as the State's premier land use planning organization."

PlanSmart NJ is a statewide civic action land use organization located in Trenton, New Jersey. Founded in 1968, PlanSmart NJ seeks to transform the practice of land use planning through the development of transformative policies and strategies that will improve conditions on the ground for everyone. For more information about PlanSmart NJ's work, visit our website at www.plansmartnj.org.