Laura Spencer (BSAC ‘86) Named CEO of Tervis Tumbler


NORTH VENICE, Fla. – Laura A. Spencer, CPA, who has most recently served as Tervis Tumbler Co.’s chief operating officer, has been promoted to chief executive officer. Norbert Donelly, owner of the North Venice, Fla.-based drinkware manufacturing company, confirmed Spencer’s appointment at the company’s board of directors meeting in November. Spencer, a certified public accountant, has been with the growing, privately held Tervis Tumbler for nine years, first joining the company in 1997 as controller. She was promoted to CFO, and subsequently COO, before taking the reins as CEO. Prior to Tervis, Spencer worked for Sarasota CPA firm Kerkering-Barbario. A graduate of the University of Florida, Spencer holds a Bachelor’s degree in accounting. Throughout her career at Tervis Tumbler, she has continued her education by completing Executive Series courses at Harvard University Business School.

As Tervis Tumbler’s CEO, Spencer oversees all areas of the company, spanning from sales and marketing, to administration, accounting, IT and manufacturing operations. She is also a member of the company’s board of directors.

“Laura has excelled at every position she’s held with us,” says Donelly. “She is extremely capable and also a leader that people gravitate toward naturally.”

Tervis Tumbler Co. has experienced strong growth in recent years, averaging more than 30 percent sales growth annually since 2004. The $20 million company is projecting to reach $40 million by the year 2010. In the last two years, Tervis’ growth has earned the company recognition on local and national levels. Tervis was voted the 2006 Company of the Year by the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County and Business of the Year (large business category) by the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce. On the national level, the gift-industry publication, GiftBeat, has rated Tervis Tumblers among the top-selling products nationwide in several 2006 issues. Tervis was also featured on NBC’s The Today Show this past September. In addition to its list of accomplishments this year, the company has been celebrating its landmark 60th anniversary in 2006.

“Tervis has come so far since I joined the company and there is still enormous potential in front of us,” says Spencer. “It has been a pleasure to grow professionally and personally with the company. Norbert has given me great opportunities to take on complex and challenging projects that continue to move us forward as a company.” Spencer sites her role in the financing and construction of the new Tervis Tumbler headquarters and factory, completed in October 2005, and the development of a new ERP system for order processing – all while handling the company’s 30 to 40 percent growth. “My greatest satisfaction is that we have been able to create so many new jobs that pay above the average wage for this area. In doing so, we have brought on board some very talented professionals who will help lead us to a great future.”