

## Rock Island presents Hard Hat awards

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Renaissance Rock Island celebrated a banner year of new investments across the city at its annual Hard Hat Celebration on Wednesday night.

A total of 29 businesses, individuals and organizations received Hard Hat awards during the presentation at Crawford Co. More than 130 people gathered for the 24th annual celebration in a 20,000-square-foot addition at Crawford's headquarters.

Renaissance Rock Island created the Hard Hats to recognize its public-private partnership with the city of Rock Island as well as recognize other Rock Island businesses.

"We honor individuals, companies and organizations based on what they've done to make a difference in our community," said Beth Payne, Renaissance's administration director.

Renaissance is the umbrella organization over the Development Association of Rock Island, or DARI; Rock Island Economic Development Growth Corp., or Growth; and The District.

This year's awards included a new category, the Golden Shopping Bag, which was presented to new retailers opened in 2012. The award recognizes the city's growing retail activity. Last year, Renaissance created the Golden Block award to recognize outstanding efforts that encompass more than one location, she said.

Here are the 2012 Hard Hat winners:

n Golden Brooms, for outstanding maintenance: Sheila Rind and Teranga House of Africa Boutique.

-- Golden Paintbrush, for outstanding painting improvements: WHBF-TV/ CBS 4.

-- Golden Hammers, for outstanding business investment: Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum, Legends Corner Bar & Grille, 2nd Avenue, Stern Center, Stecker Graphics, Against The Grain Brewery & Alehouse, Rev Hard Inc., Wendy's and Hungry Hobo.

-- Golden Block: College Hill District Organization.

-- Golden Shopping Bags: Fabulous Finds, Q-C Collective, Aja Styles, The District Visitor Center, The District Mini Mart, Comfort Furniture and Navarro Canoe Co.

-- Mayor & City Council Trophy, for the most strategic new investment: Bent River Brewing Co. Finalists: Goldman Family Block, Crawford Co., Jordan Catholic School and Community Health Care, Inc.

-- Collette Hinrichsen Award for Outstanding Philanthropy: Wells Fargo. Hinrichsen donated the former Ladder Works property, which became part of the Jackson Square housing project, to Growth.

-- CC Wilson Trophy for the Most Dedicated: The Rev. Michael Swartz. It is named in honor of DARI founding board member Charles C. Wilson.

-- Mo Payton Award for the Volunteer of the Year: Greg Champagne. Payton was a former Growth board member.

-- Renaissance Rock Island Vision Award: Augustana College.

