

Forbeck, Hendricks among award-winners

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BELOIT — After more than 13 years as executive director and president of the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce, Nancy Forbeck is retiring this spring.

She was honored Tuesday at the 82nd annual chamber dinner with a tribute recounting her time leading the organization. She received a statuette as a token of appreciation from the chamber board and staff.

“There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn’t matter who gets the credit,” Forbeck told the crowd at the Eclipse Center. “That’s why all the partnerships exist here.”

Amy Loudeneck, chamber vice president, will serve as interim president. Forbeck will continue to provide consulting services and represent the chamber during merger discussions with the Rockton and Roscoe chambers of commerce.

A number of awards were presented at Tuesday’s dinner (see related graphic).

The chamber’s Community Spirit Award was renamed



RICK WEST/STAFF

Diane Hendricks, right, owner of ABC Supply Co., and Nancy Forbeck, left, retiring after more than 13 years as executive director and president of the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce, admire the awards they received Tuesday night at the chamber’s 82nd annual dinner at Beloit’s Eclipse Center. Hendricks received the chamber’s Community Spirit Award, which was renamed this year in memory of her late husband Ken Hendricks. Also pictured is John Franks, representing Electrol Specialties of South Beloit, which received the Small Business of the Year — Manufacturing Award.

this year to honor the late Ken Hendricks, founder of Beloit-based ABC Supply Co. The first recipient of the award is his widow Diane Hendricks.

“(Ken) truly was an inspiration to everyone he met, and no one deserves having a spirit award named after

them more than Ken,” Diane Hendricks said.

The audience watched an interview with Ken and Diane Hendricks, as well as a speech he delivered in 2007, when he accepted the Large Business of the Year Award for ABC Supply.

Just 10 months later, he died after an accident at his home in Afton.

“Life was cruel when we lost Ken, but I’ve learned that

through tragedy eventually comes strength,” Diane Hendricks said. “I promise you, and I promise Ken, that I won’t quit and I will continue to do everything I can to help this community.

“My love for him and this community will always continue.”

— Rick West

‘My love for him and this community will always continue.’ — Diane Hendricks
