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# LOCAL & STATE

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## 21 You Should Know honored

ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

ROCKFORD — The Rockford Chamber of Commerce honored its first class of People You Should Know during a reception Thursday at Rock Valley College.

The 21 were chosen based on their contributions to the civic, economic and cultural vitality of the Rock River Valley. They represent a variety of industries, from manufacturing to banking, health care to education.

About 250 attended the celebration at the Karl J. Jacobs Center for Science and Math, 3301 N. Mulford Road.

Here's a look at who was honored:



PHOTOS BY SCOTT MORGAN | ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

Einar Forsman, president of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, addresses the inaugural Twenty People You Should Know award reception Thursday at the Karl J. Jacobs Center for Science and Math at Rock Valley College. **Additional photos at rrstar.com**

**Jack Becherer**

Rock Valley College president

Becherer has formed partnerships with other education institutions and districts, as well as businesses. His achievements include the Running Start program, in which high school students can earn their high school diplomas and associate degrees at the same time. He also has overseen the construction of the Physical Education Center, the Estelle Black Library, the Jacob Center for Math and Science and, soon, the Arts Instructional Center.

**Brent Brodeski**

CEO/principal financial adviser, Savant Capital Management

Brodeski partnered with Thomas Muldowney of Savant Planning Group Ltd. (now known as Savant Capital Management) in 1992. Savant has grown into the largest registered investment adviser firm in the Rockford area, with nearly \$2 billion in assets. In 2011, he was named the 10th "Most Experienced Independent Financial Advisor" by Bloomberg Businessweek.

**Gary Caruana**

Security manager, United Parcel Service

A lifelong resident of Rockford, Caruana has been with UPS for more than 25 years. He is responsible for the safety of 1,500 UPS employees. He also serves on the Rockford Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

**Jeff Fahrenwald**

Director of MBA and community training, Rockford College

Along with directing Rockford College's MBA program, Fahrenwald leads training programs for public, private and nonprofit organizations. He is active in recruiting international students and business groups to come to Rockford.

**Lori Gummow**

Executive director, Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful

In 1988, Gummow started Winnebago/Rockford Clean and Beautiful, now Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful. She is the voice that speaks to city and county leaders when it comes to recycling, waste reduction, litter prevention and other environmental issues.

**Roberta 'Bobbie' Holzwarth**

Attorney, Holmstrom &amp; Kennedy

Holzwarth is the only Rockford-area attorney to be named a fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. She has served the Winnebago County Bar Association in several positions, including president.

**James 'Jim' W. Keeling**

Partner, Hinshaw &amp; Culbertson

Keeling has led and participated in many fundraising campaigns that have provided amenities for Rockford-area youths and families, including Perryville Recreation Paths, Sportscore Two, The Learning Links, First Tee program, Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens, and the Keeling-Puri Peace Plaza.

**Dr. Kathleen M. Kelly**

Chief medical officer/ chief quality officer, Swedish-American Health System

Kelly's leadership on transparency of publicly reported core measures for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has resulted in Swedish-American's continued recognition as a Top 100 hospital. She maintains an active role with the Rockford Health Council and Crusader Community Health.

**Dana Kiley**

Vice president, Coyle Varland Insurance Agency

Kiley is a strong partner to many nonprofit organizations, providing his industry expertise in helping many assess their risks and plan for their futures.

**David Klintworth**

Managing director for wealth management, RSM McGladrey

Klintworth started a wealth management practice from the ground up. He has served on various national leadership positions and assisted other McGladrey offices in developing their wealth management practices.

**Rebecca (Kopf) Epperson**

President/owner, PR Etc.

In 2002, Epperson launched PR Etc., a public relations, special events and marketing firm. She has grown PR Etc. in Rockford, as well as in Madison and Racine, Wis.

**Dan Loescher**

Principal, Loescher &amp; Associates

Loescher has led capital campaigns for Crusader Community Health, Burpee Museum of Natural History and Discovery Center Museum, Rosecrance, and the YMCA of Rock River Valley.

**LoRayne Logan**

Owner, Workplace

Logan has grown her business into being named a Top 10 staffing company multiple times by Forbes magazine.

**John Phelps**

President, Rockford Local Development Corp.

Phelps grew the size of the Small Business Administration 504 loan program to more than \$50 million under management for local businesses that are projected to increase employment by more than 2,500 jobs.

**Dr. Michael Roh**

Spine surgeon, Rockford Spine Center

Roh earned his medical degrees from Brown University, where he graduated first in his medical school class. As one of the select core faculty members for The Prestige Cervical Disc, he travels around the country teaching other surgeons this innovative disc replacement procedure.

**Bill Roop**

President/CEO, Alpine Bank

For the past 28 years, Roop has dedicated himself to building Alpine Bank and the community it serves.

**Andreas Schell**

President, Hamilton Sundstrand Electric Systems, and Rockford site executive

In his 18 months in Rockford, Schell has served on various boards and has leveraged multiple opportunities to open Hamilton Sundstrand's doors to the community, suppliers, colleague companies and elected officials.

**Samuel Schmitz**

President, Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois

Under Schmitz's leadership since 2008, Goodwill has added three stores and is planning to open two more. It has added more valuable programs and has more than doubled the number of community members it serves.

**Dr. David Stern**

CEO, Practice Velocity

Stern, along with his two partners, founded Practice Velocity LLC and developed a modified electronic medical record and practice management software for urgent care professionals. Practice Velocity has grown to more than 200 employees and serves more than 750 clinics in 48 states.

**Bob Trojan**

President, Rockford Linear Actuation

Trojan has made significant contributions during the startup of Rockford Linear Actuation, as well as manufacturing in the Rock River Valley. During the past 10 years, Trojan has focused on moving the local manufacturing agenda using his board and volunteer positions as well as networking to initiate partnerships.

**Kathy Weber**

Managing director, Harris Bank

Weber has demonstrated a high level of community service as a volunteer and by advocating for and supporting funding from the bank. She also serves as a board member for the Coronado Performing Arts Center, Rockford Health Careers Foundation and the Rockford Park District Foundation.