

Greater Hazleton Chamber honors Hazleton Area teacher

By JIM DINO

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A local educator won the Athena award, and the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce named a new chairman of the board at its 118th annual meeting at the Genetti Best Western Inn and Suites on Thursday night.

Dr. Deb Carr, director of curriculum for grades 7-12 in the Hazleton Area School District, was given the Athena Award, sponsored by Berger Family Dealerships.

In accepting the award, Carr drew on her background as a reading teacher to thank volunteers in various literacy programs in the Hazleton area.

"The chamber sponsors Community Reading Day, and UGI has its Reading Is Fundamental program," Carr said. "You need to know that every single volunteer

makes a difference. Schools, educators and children need you behind them. Without you, schools can't make it. It speaks mountains of what you do for our community."

Carr also acknowledged family and colleagues.

"This is all so very humbling, when I think of the many extraordinary women who have won this award in the past," Carr said.

"People too numerous to mention have made a difference in my life," she continued. "I've been fortunate to have worked with people in the school district who have given me opportunities for personal growth. The League of Women Voters has, too. I'm fortunate to have been supported by colleagues who believed in collaboration. It makes you think about what you've learned."

Attorney George Hludzik, the outgoing chairman of

the board, welcomed and introduced his replacement, Lew Dryfoos III.

Dryfoos and the chamber recognized Pat Korb, who is retiring Friday as executive director of Leadership Hazleton, and named her successor, long-time area educator Joe Clark.

Korn introduced the Leadership Hazleton Class of 2010, and recognized them for their two community projects: the outdoor sitting area at St. Luke's Pavilion, and the educational garden at the Greater Hazleton Area Rails-to-Trails hiking and biking trail.

The chamber also welcomed new directors, and recognized current and retiring directors.

Prior to the banquet, the chamber held its annual Trade Show and Exposition.

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