



**ILLINOIS**

## **News Release - Chapter Leader Award and Chapter Volunteer Awards**

*(December 10, 2010 | Chicago, Ill.)* - The **U.S. Green Building Council - Illinois Chapter** announced the recipient of its Leadership Award at the Annual Meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the historic Union League Club. The Leadership Award recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations that have served the Chapter in a variety of leadership roles, and represents the Chapter in public presentations, interviews, and events.

The recipient of this year's award is **Laureen Blissard**, AIA, ALA, NCARB, LEED AP HOMES. Laureen has held many roles in the past including Board Chair, various Committee Chair positions and is currently the Governance Committee Chair and RGB Advocate. She has presented on behalf of the Chapter at many speaking engagements and has given press statements and interviews as a representative of the Chapter. She was also the architect of the Chapter's office build out in the Merchandise Mart which is being submitted for LEED Certification.

Laureen expressed her feelings about the award by saying, "It was an extreme honor to receive the 2010 Chapter Leader Award. As someone who typically suggests others for recognition, it was also unexpected." She went on to say, "The hope is that my example will inspire others to continue to support the chapter and become more involved."

Additionally the Chapter presented the Volunteer Appreciation awards at the Member Volunteer Appreciation Party during Greenbuild. The awards and recipients are:

**Green Speak** – This award identifies an individual who has done an outstanding job engaging their audience at an Illinois Chapter event and someone that you'd like to see present more often. This award is presented to **Jason LaFleur**.

**Green Hornet** – This award commends the most active individual in the Illinois Chapter community and is awarded to a member that participates on multiple committees or branches or attends many events. This award is presented to **Pam Garetto**.

**Agent Green** – This award recognizes an individual who has truly been an Illinois Chapter ambassador and has shared their message throughout the community. This award is presented to **Will Cordray**.

**Green Mind** – This award recognizes the Chapter’s biggest educational advocate and is given to a member who dedicates their time to educating and sharing their knowledge with others. This award is presented to **Larry Alport**.

**Green Sprout** – This award identifies an Emerging Professional who has gone above and beyond to education other students and young professionals about green building and the Chapter. This award is presented to **Katherine Darnstadt**.

**Green Visionary** – This award is for a member that deserves recognition for their overall contributions to the Chapter. This award is presented to **Meghann Maves**.

The Chapter would like to extend our thanks and congratulations to all of our award winners for their time, talent and dedication to their profession and sustainable building practices in Illinois.

**About the U.S. Green Building Council - Illinois Chapter**

Formerly the Chicago Chapter, the USGBC - Illinois Chapter was renamed to better reflect the Chapter’s work throughout the state. The U.S. Green Building Council – Illinois Chapter’s nearly 1,600 members represent the entire spectrum of Illinois’ green building community, from real estate professionals, architects, engineers, designers and trade associations to contractors, product manufacturers, state and local government officials, homebuilders and homeowners. The U.S. Green Building Council – Illinois Chapter is the local affiliate of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a national non-profit composed of leaders from every sector of the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. USGBC’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED provides a roadmap for measuring and documenting success for every building type and phase of a building lifecycle. The Illinois Chapter furthers the work of USGBC through over 150 annual programs, events, education and research initiatives, advocacy campaigns, and resources throughout its network of seven local branches: Central Illinois, Chicago, Fox Valley, North/Northwest Suburban, Rockford/Northern Illinois, South Suburban, and West Suburban.