



## Taking care of business

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Business growth is a laudable and oftentimes challenging goal. In the current economy it's a praiseworthy achievement.

So it is fitting as well as encouraging that the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership listed about three dozen businesses, entities and individuals among candidates for its ninth annual awards luncheon held Friday.

Fourteen nominations were tallied for the new business category alone.

Another seven businesses were listed for consideration for the business expansion award — no small feat in recent times.

Interestingly, one of the winners in that category, CP Engineers and Architecture, received a business investment award last year as CP Engineers LLC.

Likewise, there was no shortage of nominations in categories of business advocacy and business investment this year.

The 2013 recipients ranged from individuals such as Realtor Lisa Fairclough who, along with C3 Workplace, shared honors for business advocacy, to much larger entities such as Atlantic Health System, recognized for its business investment of nearly \$18 million in projects at Newton Medical Center since announcing their merger three years ago.

Appropriately, the event also recognized government units, with Hardyston receiving the municipal award presented for being business friendly and using its resources to promote economic development; state Assemblywoman Alison Littell McHose was given the distinctive leadership award; and the county was given an economic innovation award winner for its Geographic Information System, which makes updated maps and data easily available to all.

Hidden Pastures, a Branchville alpaca farm, received a nod to the county's agricultural past as well as future in receiving an environmental leadership award.

In receiving their awards, the honorees were uniform not just in their appreciation, but more importantly in their positive outlook for the economic vitality for Sussex County.

Congratulations and thanks to all who work to keep the economic wheels turning forward in Sussex County.

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