

## **Spartan Hospitality Business Champion Award Honorees**

**2020 – James E. Burba (BA '77)**  
Co-Founder, Burba Hotel Network

**2019 –** Nomination postponed.

**2018 – Marc J. Gordon (MBA '73), CHA, FMP**  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association

**2018 – Dan W. Darrow (MBA '61)**  
President, Palm Hospitality Company  
a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company

**2017 – John Belden (BA '85)**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Davidson Hotels & Resorts

**2014 – Ron Cichy (BA '72, MBA '77)**  
Director & Professor  
*The School of Hospitality Business*

**2013 – Philip J. Hickey (BA '77)**  
Chairman of the Board  
National Restaurant Association

**2012 – Ed Watkins**  
Executive Editor  
*Lodging Hospitality*