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UDIA celebrates female achievers

SEVEN talented women from Queensland's development and construction industry were honoured at the 2011 Women in Development Awards last week.

Megan Barron, director of sales and marketing for Citimark Properties, claimed the top award for Outstanding Achievement by a Woman in Strategic Management.

The judges said that with a combination of "outstanding knowledge of all facets of development throughout Queensland and exceptional interpersonal and team building skills", Megan was a truly worthy winner.

UDIA Queensland president Matthew Wallace said the Women in Development Awards were as much about providing inspiration to other women as they were about rewarding the winners.

"Megan is such an exceptional role model for Women in Development with her commitment, passion, balance and sound judgment having contributed to an amazing success story," he said.

"While we congratulate her on her significant achievements, we hope to inspire and encourage other women to

The winners

Outstanding Achievement by a Woman – Strategic Management:

Megan Barron, Citimark Properties

Outstanding Achievement by a Woman – Rising Star Award:

Nicky Crane, Urban Land Development Authority

Outstanding Achievement by a Woman – Professional and Development Services:

Liza Ringdahl, Thomson Adsett Architects

Outstanding Achievement by a Woman – Industry Support

Services: Colleen Coyne, Colleen Coyne Property Research Pty Ltd

Outstanding Achievement by a Woman – Government:

Nicole Johnson, Neighborhood Planning and Urban Renewal, Brisbane City Council

Dr Paula Whitman Future Leader Award (Student):

Eloise Liddell, Trade Coast Central

Workplace Award:

Turner and Townsend

Achievement in Developing a Sustainable Environment:

Kirsty Chessher, EnviroDevelopment

aspire to similar heights in an industry which has historically been very male-dominated."

Mr Wallace said the proportion of women working in the broader development and construction industry had grown significantly in recent years.

"One of the goals of Women in Development is to get the word out that the industry has changed and there are serious opportunities for women to pursue career success," he said.

Mr Wallace said the WID categories were designed to

recognise and encourage women working across the broad sphere of development delivery and support and at all stages of their careers, from the student Future Leader category to the strategic management trophy.

He said the awards also provided a category to recognise true leadership in providing a workplace which created greater opportunities for women to succeed.

The winner was cost planners Turner and Townsend for its workplace policies and culture.