



June 14, 2013

Des Moines Business Record
% Women of Influence Nomination 2013
100 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

To Whom It May Concern:

It is an honor to nominate Margaret Borgen as a *Des Moines Business Record* Woman of Influence. She is a tireless leader who has made a difference in the lives of so many families and children in the Des Moines Community and well beyond.

I have known Margaret for over 10 years through two organizations of which we are both members – Rotary Club of Des Moines AM and the Consortium, a women's networking group.

With Rotary Club of DMAM, I have worked closely with Margaret for several years and have admired how she conducts herself. Margaret served on the strategic planning committee which I led two years ago and brought a wonderful perspective to so many issues. She is a great volunteer for our Club's wide-ranging community service work, which includes Capital View elementary school. As a new board member, she wants to contribute in ways that truly bring value to our members – which is so important to any organization. With her family, they have opened up their home to many Rotary exchange students from South Africa, Brazil, France, England, Mexico and Japan. When we think of the Rotary motto, Service Above Self – Margaret is truly a Rotarian, not just a member of Rotary.

I have always looked to Margaret as a true mentor of the highest ethics and values, with a passion for making our community a better place. What I admire most about Margaret is her quiet confidence. She is a leader who speaks when she has something meaningful to say, rather than speaking to be heard. When Margaret speaks, people want to listen as they know it will be thoughtful and encouraging, with earned wisdom behind her comments.

I sincerely believe that Margaret is so deserving of this honor. Before I visited with her about this nomination, I knew that Margaret's greatest passion is in the field of education, having held a number of influential positions from many perspectives. I also knew that Margaret has been involved in a number of additional organizations

and initiatives, but I was amazed when I truly learned of her depth of community involvement and civic mindedness. The organizations that have benefited from Margaret's time, advocacy and influence are too many to name here, but they center around so many important themes: education, anti-bullying, fairness for all, a strong business and cultural community, and personal accountability.

In her words, "I have always tried to share my beliefs that when schools are good for all children, they are better for our own children."

While she strongly supports early education initiatives, Iowa Core Standards, and fair treatment of all children, she has also promoted making arts experiences available to students through her work with education. As you can see, she brings a well-rounded view to helping children prosper and learn. And Margaret does carve out a bit of time to enjoy and support metro-area arts/cultural organizations and activities with her family – as an attendee, and of course, as a fundraiser for so many worthy groups. It's amazing that she even has a minute to enjoy the community in which she lives, as she's so dedicated to helping others.

I'd like to close this letter with a light-hearted note that helps explain why Margaret gets so much accomplished. When I asked her how she gets it all done, she replied, "I really don't like to sleep. I sleep because I know I need to, but sometimes I feel that it's a waste of time. There are too many important things that I'm excited about that need to get done."

Margaret truly has demonstrated what it means to be a woman of influence by following her passion and her heart. I hope that you recognize Margaret as one of the 2013 Women of Influence. I can't think of an individual in Des Moines who is more deserving.

Thank you for your consideration,



Tamara Kenworthy
President