



June 11, 2013

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

To Whom It May Concern:

It is our privilege to provide a letter of recommendation for Margaret Borgen as a nominee for the Business Record 2013 Women of Influence Awards. Mrs. Borgen has a distinguished record of community service and leadership that is truly worth celebrating.

Mrs. Borgen is co-owner of Borgen Systems, where she serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors. Even with the extensive responsibilities that come with running a manufacturing company, Mrs. Borgen chooses to give selflessly of her time, energy and intellect in support of numerous civic/non-profit organizations on the local, state and national levels.

We know Mrs. Borgen best for her untiring contributions and lasting impact on countless lives within the field of education. Mrs. Borgen has provided leadership in such diverse roles as a classroom teacher, school principal, President of the Iowa Parent/Teacher Association (PTA); National PTA Board of Directors; member and President of the Des Moines School Board; member and President of the Iowa Association of School Boards, and member and Vice-Chair of the Heartland Area Education Agency. Mrs. Borgen also serves as the President of the Board of Trustees of the Des Moines Public Schools Foundation and Vice President of the Des Moines Public Schools Library Support Group.

In each of these roles, Mrs. Borgen has advocated for "the common good" and public policy that leads to effective schools which influence greater learning for all children. One of her most notable legacies comes from her work as an advocate with educators and business partners to pass legislation that now provides access to universal preschool for four-year-old children in Iowa. In her own words, she wants 'to contribute to making a huge difference for kids'. The passing of this legislation is but one example of many where the

results of her work in partnership with others is not only making a huge difference today, but will influence generations of children to come.

In all of the positions of influence that Mrs. Borgen has held, we have observed that she contributes with the openness of a learner and the spirit of a colleague. She holds herself to the highest ethical standards and the grace that comes from a truly humble individual.

These comments fall short of the accolades she deserves for quietly living her life in a way that makes our community and our state a better place. We offer our strongest support for the nomination of Margaret Borgen as a most deserving recipient of the 2013 Women of Influence award.

Sincerely,



Thomas Ahart, Superintendent
Des Moines Public Schools

Paula J.
Vincent, Ph.D.

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Paula J. Vincent, Chief Administrator
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