

May 20, 2014

Des Moines Business Record  
2014 Women of Influence  
Recognition Selection Committee

Dear Committee Members:

It is with great pleasure that I write today in support of the nomination of Monica Friedman as a 2014 Women of Influence honoree.

For many years Monica has been an active member and leader on various Councils and Boards for the Greater Des Moines Partnership. One of her greatest impacts has been with our Diversity/Inclusion Council. Under her leadership as Chair, the Council nearly doubled in terms of members and active participation. The Council's mission and programming expanded from one focused on business diversity best practices to a broader emphasis on building an inclusive community. As a strong believer in collaboration and sharing of knowledge, she led efforts to develop the Partnership's first CEO diversity conference – "Take Diversity to the Top". Bringing together over 100 area business and community leaders, this conference laid the foundation for a broader, business-driven commitment toward creating an environment of inclusion to all who chose to call greater Des Moines home.

It was also during Monica's role as Chair that the Partnership and Des Moines Business Publications collaborated to produce the first *Inclusion* magazine, which continues today to be this community's signature publication showcasing the diverse faces and stories of central Iowa.

In addition, Monica has been instrumental on several of our workforce initiatives serving as a member of the Central Iowa Workforce Investment Board, an early founder of our Attraction/Retention Council and a founding member of the Central Iowa Works Financial Services Sector Board.

Outside of her busy work and family life, Monica gives back to the community through a variety of volunteer commitments. In particular, she carries on the tradition of her father's passion and commitment to the American Red Cross by playing an active role on the Board of the Central Iowa chapter.

These are just a few examples of the many ways that Monica Friedman has impacted the lives of untold individuals in Central Iowa and beyond. Monica leads by example with integrity and uncompromising commitment to her core values. Her commitment and actions toward making Iowa a better place for all, particularly women and minorities, are felt broad and wide. She is an outstanding individual and is truly deserving of the honor to be named a 2014 Woman of Influence.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Bohtrager, Executive Vice President  
Workforce Development/Education

