

Joe Enríquez Henry State Director May 22, 2014

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Antonio Cedillo Deputy State Director for Youth Activities On behalf of the Iowa League of United Latin American Citizens, I am proud to support the nomination of Sonia Parras Konrad for the Business Record's 2014 Women of Influence awards.

If there is one word that could describe Sonia, it would be "selfless." Sonia is an activist, attorney and educator about domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. She has spoken nationally and internationally about these issues and women's rights issues, and has written several books about them.

Sonia has devoted countless hours since 1997 in representing and sharing the stories of immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. She also has provided free legal services to immigrants and others in need, including more than 70 immigrants who were detained during one of the largest raids in U.S. history. She has served as an active member of numerous boards and commissions aimed at improving the lives of Latinos and Latinas, immigrants and the mainstream community.

Sonia works as executive director of ASISTA Immigrant Assistance in Des Moines, which is part of a nationwide program that provides immigrants with assistance and access to advocates and attorneys. Through her role, she provides vital support and assistance to these individuals that is not available elsewhere.

Another one of Sonia's most notable achievements is her involvement in the creation of the Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines, a special program created to help give young Latina women the skills and access they need to become the next generation of leaders in the Des Moines-metro area.

Because of her extraordinary work and tireless support of the Latino community, Iowa LULAC bestowed upon Sonia its inaugural Iowa Latino Leadership Award at the 2013 Iowa Latino Leadership Awards Banquet.

It is because of these reasons and many more that I believe Sonia Parras Konrad deserves to be named a 2014 Woman of Influence.

Sincerely,

Joe Enríquez Henry, Iowa LULAC State Director