

May 29, 2015

To: Women of Influence Selection Committee

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Shelley Horak for the *Business Record's* '2015 Women of Influence Award'. I have known Director Horak for a number of years as the chair of her MPH program prior to my retirement, as a colleague and as a friend.

Shelley's resume speaks for itself as to her impressive leadership skills and dedication to making a difference for the individuals, populations and community she serves. Her work to improve the quality of life in our state is done with passion and unwavering commitment to what public health stands for.

Examples of her accomplishments in the short time she has been Director of Dallas County Public Health Department are truly awe-inspiring to those of us in the public health arena. She has led Dallas County Public Health Nursing Services' efforts to achieve Home Health Accreditation. Her successful grant application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention allowed Shelley and her team to engage and empower communities to determine their transportation needs related to being able to access health services. Her innovative GIS mapping of assets (health facilities, public assistance programs, groceries, recreation centers, etc.) and disease trends in Dallas County will be invaluable in planning data driven public health interventions that are cost-effective and impactful.

Shelley is known for her ability to engage multiple stakeholders from community and business leaders to representatives of the most vulnerable of our citizens. She is an active member of the Iowa Public Health Association and was recently elected to the board. Her superior interpersonal skills and supportive leadership style has earned her the respect and loyalty of her colleagues and staff.

Shelley has both intellectual and emotional intelligence combined with integrity and an authentic caring that makes people want to join her in making a difference. To me this is the true definition of influence!

Sincerely,

Mary Mincer Hansen

Mary Mincer Hansen. RN, PhD

Adjunct Professor, MPH Program and Adjunct Associate Professor Global Health
Department

Des Moines University

mchansen@netins.net