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Dear Women Of Influence Nominating Committee:

It's my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Michelle DeClerck for the 2015 Women Of Influence honors. I have known Michelle for many years, first as a professional colleague which quickly turned into a friendship as well. She easily possesses all of the criteria established for this highly-regarded recognition.

Since starting her successful business, Conference Event Management, Michelle has worked with a level of integrity and attention to detail above and beyond what one might expect. After experiencing her professionalism and high-quality event management in various settings, such as through our joint work with NAWBO Iowa, I knew that CEM would be my go-to organization for event needs. For the past two years, Michelle and her team have handled many of the details for my public events. Not once have I worried about those details as I knew they would all be taken care of with grace and ease. This is a huge asset to anyone planning an event!

Michelle has also made an impact in the community through her work with various nonprofits, ranging from business organizations to those that enhance life for children, like Opportunity On Deck. She is not just a name on the roster; she devotes time and energy to truly make a difference, whether that means strategizing or action planning or rolling up her sleeves and doing whatever needs to be done. Michelle's visionary thinking keeps these organizations growing, flourishing, and moving forward to meet the needs of those they serve.

Personally, I have witnessed and experienced Michelle's generosity, professionalism, and high integrity time and time again. She is dedicated to the development of others, whether that involves her CEM team members, up-and-comers in the event management industry, or those participating in one of the many organizations in which she participates and/or leads. One of the things I admire most about Michelle is her sense of vision and "dream big mentality" coupled with the extraordinary ability to make those dreams a reality in a streamlined and fun manner. Evidence of this is easily seen in her company, community, and the various organizations she serves.

Michelle DeClerck clearly represents all of the criteria established for the Women Of Influence recognition. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you for considering Michelle!

Warmly,

Christi Hegstad, Ph.D.
President