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June 1, 2015

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Barbara Quijano Decker

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing this letter of recommendation in support of the nomination of Barbara Quijano Decker for a 2015 Woman of Influence.

I first met Barbara when she served as the Vice Provost for Drake University, however, it was in her role as an Administrator at Mercy Medical Center that I became aware of her unwavering commitment to promoting equal opportunity and diversity as a priority in every area of her professional and personal life.

While at Drake University, Barbara served as the University's Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Officer. In her position at Mercy Medical Center, she significantly expanded Mercy's diversity efforts through the creation of new diversity and disability resource groups and programs which resulted in Mercy receiving recognition as having the best practices in diversity by Catholic Health Initiatives and receiving the 2005 Greater Des Moines Partnership Diversity Award.

Her commitment to diversity continued after she was appointed President of Mercy College of Health Sciences. In my role as a member of the Board of Trustees of the College for thirteen years and as Board Chair, I was able to witness first hand Barbara's on going dedication to assuring equal opportunity for all persons and her unwavering commitment to promoting diversity.

As President of MCHS, Barbara was instrumental in Mercy College's award of a 3.4 million dollar grant to offer the Des Moines community's refugee and immigrant population opportunities in health care careers. Barbara also created a diversity initiative to increase the minority enrollment at the college. She has served as an admirable role model to the hundreds of predominantly women students at the college in her capacity as President of MCHS by exhibiting high ethical standards and strong leadership skills.

In addition to her commitment to promoting equal opportunity and diversity in all aspects of her professional life, Barbara has devoted many hours of service to our community. She currently serves on the Community Advisory Board of Bankers Trust and the board of The Homestead, which is an organization serving persons with autism. She has also served as

President of the Drake Law School Board of Counselors as well as participating in many other community boards and organizations.

It is, however, her unwavering commitment to diversity that has truly had a lasting, positive and real impact on our community and on the lives of the many employees and students with whom she has had contact.

President Decker clearly meets all of the criteria to make her a Woman of Influence in our community.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Shoff