

June 3, 2015

Connie Wimer
Chairman
Business Publications Corporation
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Connie,

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Elisabeth Buck for the 2015 Women of Influence Award. Elisabeth's career has included positions as United Way's Chief Community Impact Officer, Iowa Workforce Development Director, a staff leader for two Iowa governors, and a respected community leader and mentor. Her career and dedication to our community make her worthy of this esteemed honor.

Throughout her distinguished career, Elisabeth Buck has been a leader who works hard to improve lives for her fellow Iowans. At United Way of Central Iowa, Elisabeth leads teams of staff, volunteers and partner organizations, making investment and programmatic decisions that create lasting change for our community. Thanks to her drive and dedication, our community is making measurable improvements toward Goals for 2020 in education, financial stability and health, the building blocks for a good quality of life for all central Iowans.

Before joining United Way, Elisabeth served as Director of Iowa Workforce Development (IWD). When appointed by Governor Culver, she received unanimous approval from the Iowa Senate. She transformed IWD into a client-centered environment and integrated the state's Workforce Centers with employers to provide seamless employment services and up-skilling activities for Iowa's workers. As a result of her leadership and compassion for Iowans, IWD became a model agency.

Elisabeth served Governors Vilsack and Culver as Deputy Chief of Staff from 1999-2007. She organized over 200 major events, including the National Governor's Association event in Iowa, and led the taskforce to design the state quarter. She recruited over 1,000 volunteers for these initiatives.

Her volunteer service in our community is as comprehensive as her professional accomplishments. She serves on the Central Iowa Workforce Investment Board, the National Skills Coalition Leadership Council, the Grantmaking Committee of the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation, and the boards of Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families and Capital Crossroads.

One of Elisabeth's most notable achievements was that she was the very first woman to be elected Student Body President when she was a student at Iowa State University.

Elisabeth is the very embodiment of what it means to be a Woman of Influence including remarkable professional and career accomplishments, a lasting impact on our community and state, leadership in numerous community organizations and the highest levels of personal and ethical standards.

I strongly endorse Elisabeth Buck as a 2015 Woman of Influence.

Sincerely,



Mary B. Sellers
President
United Way of Central Iowa
2014 Woman of Influence Honoree