



June 4, 2015

Des Moines Business Record
c/o Jason Swanson
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Mr. Swanson and members of the Women of Influence Selection Committee,

I am honored to have been asked to provide a letter of support for the nomination of Elisabeth Buck as a 2015 Woman of Influence.

My association with Elisabeth has been cultivated over the past several years through the work she has been leading in her role as Chief Impact Officer (CIO) for United Way of Central Iowa. Elisabeth oversees a multi-million dollar budget and ensures donors' contributions are invested in a manner that measurably improves community conditions by advancing progress toward Goals for 2020.

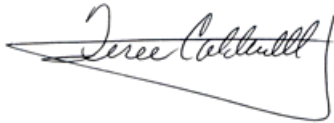
I have had the opportunity to witness Elisabeth's work up close and personal. In her capacity as CIO her handiwork and fingerprint can be seen on multiple fronts and in significant ways. From moving the needle on United Way's 2020 community impact goals to leading urban core work through Capital Crossroads; from advancing efforts on poverty alleviation to creating a platform for addressing the education and skills gap Elisabeth has been in the forefront, championing issues and establishing an agenda and plan of action necessary in addressing the needs of "the least of us" while creating an opportunity for addressing significant quality of life issues for "all of us".

Elisabeth's reputation as a leader, influencer and trailblazer are also evidenced by the work she has accomplished and the roles in which she served before her appointment at United Way. As the first female elected Student Body President at Iowa State University, Elisabeth made her mark. In addition to this early vote of confidence in her leadership, Elisabeth went on to be named Leader of the Year in Iowa State Government in 2002, Volunteer of the Year in 2004, and received the AFSCME Leadership Award in 2006. As a key member of the staff of governors

Vilsack and Culver, Elisabeth was pivotal in the state's work as Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Vilsack and Director of Iowa Workforce Development under Governor Culver. In both of these roles Elisabeth used her position and influence to advance public policy issues and redesign state departments, systems and processes necessary in increasing accountability and transparency always with a focus on measurable outcomes and quantifiable impact.

Elisabeth is an extraordinary woman whose legacy of professional accomplishments and community service are inspirational, influential and impactful. It is without hesitation that I advance this letter in support of her nomination and hope that the committee will look favorably on her nomination and advance her name as one of the 2015 Women of Influence.

Respectfully –

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Tere Caldwell-Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left and a vertical line extending downwards to the right, forming a large, open loop.

Tere Caldwell-Johnson, CEO
Oakridge Neighborhood

2002 Women of Influence