Drake
UNIVERSITY

May 25, 2016

To the Women of Influence Selection Committee:

As a former Woman of Influence honoree, it is a tremendous honor for me - on behalf of Drake University - to nominate Cathy Lacy for consideration of a 2016 Woman of Influence award.

A Drake alumnus, Cathy has served on the Drake board of trustees for the past six years. She has served on two important committees of Buildings and Grounds and also Academic Affairs. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has played one of the most important roles in Drake's more recent history having approved and guided the planning of the University's STEM at Drake $65M building, scheduled to open in fall of 2017. Additionally, the Academic Affairs Committee has reviewed and approved Drake's new degree offerings in Data Analytics and Occupational Therapy.

Cathy has been a long-time donor to Drake's annual fund and most recently she, and her husband Steve, made a generous $500,000 gift to the *distinctly* Drake campaign to fund the Cathy and Steve Lacy Organic Chemistry Lab (known as the "Lacy Lab").   This renovated lab has been tantamount in Drake's ability to recruit students interested in pursuing degrees in science-related fields.

Finally, Cathy has played an instrumental role in the hiring and installation of Drake's new president, Earl F. "Marty" Martin.   Cathy served on the presidential search committee and also co-chaired the Inauguration Committee – an event held on April 28th at the Knapp Center where over 2,000 faculty, staff, students, community members, and elected officials, officially welcomed President Martin as the 13th President of Drake University.

Cathy Lacy is extremely deserving of this honor. She has served the Greater Des Moines community with an unmatched generosity of spirit, been a role model for other women, and made a lasting impact fundamentally changing the face of Drake's campus and the leadership which will drive the University to meet challenges in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Shannon Cofield
Chief of Staff