



200 First Street SE, Suite 2100 | Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

May 15, 2017

Women of Influence 2017 Selection Committee
Des Moines Business Record
c/o Jason Swanson
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Women of Influence 2017 Selection Committee:

It is my privilege to enthusiastically nominate Dr. Dianne Bystrom to the Des Moines Business Record's Women of Influence 2017.

For the past 10 years, I have worked with and observed Dr. Bystrom in numerous roles. In her capacity as the Director for the Carrie Chapman Catt Center at Iowa State University, Dr. Bystrom has advanced the cause for women in politics by elevating the profile of the Center through ambitious programming with speakers of national and international reputation; successful development and expansion of its Ready to Run Programs; her thought leadership on Women in Politics; and her hands on support and development of university women (both students and younger peers).

Dr. Bystrom is a valued expert on the role of women in politics and a frequent contributor to both state and national media. She is highly regarded for her knowledge of the outcomes and her ability to analyze the contributing factors. Dr. Bystrom is an unabashed cheerleader for women in politics and has helped countless women gain the confidence to pursue an elected position.

Since 2011, Dr. Bystrom and I have both served on the Iowa Women's Leadership Project, a coalition of organizations focused on advancing women and girls across our state. Dianne has had a significant impact on that group's work on the series of She Matters Reports: The Status of Women and Girls in Iowa. She is a recognized leader within the group who looks to not only identify the issues women and girls face in our state, but is focused on identifying solutions to make positive change.

Our organization has worked in collaboration with Dr. Bystrom and her team, Nexus Executive Women's Alliance and the Tippie College of Business on research regarding Women in Leadership in Iowa. She is a wonderful role model for her students and members of the Catt Center team engaged in research, always looking for ways to help address the issues facing women in our state and working together.

Dianne Bystrom is unique – she is an accomplished academic with impressive research credentials who understands the importance of the collaboration and engagement of the academic and private sectors. Whether it is working with the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women or on the Iowa Women's Leadership Project, Dianne has impacted all of us for the better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Diane Ramsey'.

Diane Ramsey, CEO