



Educational Excellence
Des Moines Independent Community School District
1800 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
Aiddy K. Phomvisay, Director
Office: 515-242-7846 • centralcampus.dmschools.org

Monday, May 22, 2017

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Ms. Rachel Flint

Dear Selection Committee for 2017 Women of Influence,

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to offer my highest recommendation for Ms. Rachel Flint for the 2017 Women of Influence Award. I have had the great pleasure of working with Ms. Flint and her team this past year to establish the Skilled Trades Alliance for Central Campus and the Des Moines Public Schools.

As Vice President for Hubbell, Ms. Flint has many responsibilities and duties to her organization. One the highest priority is to give back to her community, invest in youth and advocate for their success. This is the spirit in which I became acquainted with Ms. Flint. She led the Hubbell Home team along with Mr. Gary Scrutchfield of Lumberman's Supply to establish the Skilled Trades Alliance. In less than six months, Ms. Flint spearheaded the creation of a private-public venture that raised nearly 1.4 million dollars to establish a new Skilled Trades Academy for urban youth.

The Skilled Trades Academy will enroll 150 more students in pre-apprentice and registered apprenticeship programs for the Des Moines Public Schools. One hundred and seventy, students in 8th and 9th will participate in a one week exploration camp for Skilled Trades. Previous programs that were cut to budget constraints will now return due to her leadership on the Alliance.

Ms. Flint is truly a woman of influence. Her leadership, inspiration, creativity and stimulus enabled the Skilled Trades Alliance to positively impact the disadvantaged youth of our community and families. Majority of the students who will gain meaningful skills, work experience and credentials from this program come from the urban core, are students of poverty, and newcomers. Her work on the Alliance transcends economic development, builds community and strengthens our youth for generations to come.

With the utmost gratitude and appreciation for her work, I offer her my highest recommendation.

Aiddy Phomvisay

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aiddy Phomvisay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aiddy" being more prominent.

Director, Central Campus.