

May 23, 2017

Des Moines Business Publications  
Women of Influence Selection Committee  
100 4th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Women of Influence Selection Committee:

It is with pleasure I write to support Dr. Mary Chapman's nomination to become a 2017 Woman of Influence.

By dedicating her life and career to making education and opportunity accessible for all youth and adult learners, and especially those at risk and underserved, Mary has bettered the Central Iowa community immeasurably. Mary would be deserving of this recognition for her own educational and career advancement; receiving her doctorate in education from Vanderbilt University, becoming the first female executive dean at DMACC, and serving on too many community boards to count. It is her advancement of others, however, that truly distinguishes her career and her lasting impact on our community: serving inmates at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, expanding diversity among teachers in Des Moines, and her key role in developing the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families.

I would be honored to nominate Mary in recognition of her career and life committed to educating our youth, for building the next generation of servant leaders, for mentoring countless women and young people, and for uplifting all those around her. But what makes it a delight to recommend Mary for this recognition is her uplifting presence, always positive attitude, joyful approach to life, and humble service to everyone she encounters.

Sincerely,

Mary O'Keefe