



Business Publications : Women of Influence Selection Committee The
Depot, 100 4th Street . Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Mary Chapman

May 21, 2017

To: Women of Influence Selection Committee

As the only Des Moines Area Community College retiree ever designated a "DMACC Ambassador" in DMACC's 51-year history, Mary Chapman is a remarkable person with an even more remarkable career at DMACC and in service to Central Iowa.

From Provost of the DMACC Urban Campus, the most diverse college campus in Iowa, to DMACC's Vice President for Community Outreach, Mary was exceptional and omnipresent. She was always there when an initiative of substance was being planned or executed; always on the short list of "doers" to call if a community problem was being addressed; always with a "yes" instead of a "no"; and, always around at the end to clean up after a successful event. She had the respect and admiration of everyone and used her power as a "convener" to make sure issues were being addressed. That's Mary!

Mary was a lead Sponsor and organizer of "Opportunity Iowa", the first subsidiary of "Opportunity Nation" in the USA, committed to bringing economic opportunity and mobility to everyone in Iowa. In retirement, she continues her work in developing the "Opportunity Compass" in Iowa, helping Iowa youth know the opportunities and services that are available for them, and still serving on the national leadership stage for Opportunity Nation.

Mary was also key in the development and initial leadership of the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families. From the days when we all looked at the empty shell of the Top Value Store, to many organizational meetings, fundraising, staffing, and then welcoming and serving the first clients, Mary was on the front lines "making it happen". Evelyn was a friend and would have been proud.

Mary is a friend and is, indeed, a Woman of Influence.

Sincerely –

Rob Denson, President

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