Dear Selection Committee:

It is an honor to write this letter of support for Jennie Baranczyk’s nomination for the Business Record 2017 Women of Influence Award. She is an extraordinary role model who is making a lasting impact on our community and is achieving record-setting success in her career field.

In my 27 years in NCAA Division I athletics, I have had the privilege of working with many high achieving coaches. Jennie Baranczyk is as good as I have ever seen. In each of her four recruiting classes to Drake University, one of her first-year student-athletes has earned the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Freshman of the Year award. Additionally, her 2014 Freshman of the Year, Lizzy Wendell, earned the 2017 MVC Player of the Year award. Jennie has clearly demonstrated that she is a standout in recruiting and developing her players and was aptly named the 2017 MVC Coach of the Year.

But that is a small part of what makes Jennie Baranczyk so special. Jennie led her team through a record setting year, achieving 22 straight wins and becoming the first MVC team to sweep the entire season and tournament championships, all while two players (the 2015 and 2016 MVC Freshman of the Year award winners) sat on the bench with injuries and she was pregnant with her third child. Nothing seems to deter Jennie’s vision or cause her lose her ability to achieve results.

In each of the five years Jennie has led the Drake Bulldogs, her teams have performed more than 1,000 hours of community service and maintained an average team grade point average of at least 3.50. Personally, Jennie serves alongside her team and additionally gives of her personal time to speak in the community. She created a leadership group for women in our community called the Drake Divas, sits on the Young Women’s Resource Center Board, and serves as the MVC Conference Captain for the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association. Service is simply who she is.

Every year in front of her peers, Jennie makes a commitment to the Athletics’ Department touchstone, The Bulldog Way. The first commitment statement is *We Act with Integrity*. Jennie exemplifies and models for our Bulldog Family exactly what this statement means. There are no cutting corners for this woman – it does not matter how high the mountain and how much easier it would be to go around it, if it needs to be climbed, she will go first.

Jennie Baranczyk is making a lasting impact on our women’s basketball program, Drake Athletics, Drake University, the Des Moines Metro area, as well as NCAA Women’s Basketball in general. As a 2010 Woman of Influence, I give my absolute strongest recommendation for Jennie Baranczyk for the 2017 Women of Influence Award.

Most Sincerely,



Sandy Hatfield Clubb

Director of Athletics