To the Women of Influence Selection Committee,

Not being from the state of Iowa nor ever playing collegiate basketball before, we were unsure what to expect when we came to Drake University. We have learned a lot on our journey and owe a majority of our growth to the leadership, guidance, and love we have received unconditionally from Jennie Baranczyk.

Jennie is a role model for us players in every sense of the word. We get the privilege of seeing her as a coach, a mom, a committed community member, and most importantly—a strong female leader. She is the ultimate competitor, understands the game at a high level, and knows what it takes to win. And while we all love winning games, we have learned to value so much more because of Jennie.

She has built our program on love: love for the game, love for competition, and love for Drake. Through her actions, that we play witness to everyday, she shows us that living out our culture not only yields success on the court—but in life as well. She’s taught us that it’s not always about what you do, but how you do it. Jennie models what it means to live and lead with integrity and authenticity.

For Jennie, it’s never about anything but our Drake family. The success of our team or of any individual player or coach doesn’t mean anything without the guidance of the people we are surrounded by. She models and teaches us to value growth and hard work, all while having a lot of fun as we move toward our vision. Jennie always says that if we abide by these principles, success will find us.

We interact with the community, participate in public speaking events, and meet and engage with influential members of the Des Moines community in which she is so invested. Her influence as a head coach is one that leaves us inspired to connect to, learn from, and give back to a community that does so much for our team and this university as a whole.

As two of her own players, we can assure you that Jennie is impacting lives every single day she steps foot on Drake’s campus and even beyond that. Thank you for considering our coach for the 2017 Woman of Influence award. We truly believe she is deserving of such a high honor.

Sincerely,

Lizzy Wendell | Senior, Drake Women’s Basketball

Becca Jonas | Redshirt Sophomore, Drake Women’s Basketball