

May 26, 2017

Business Record

Attention: Women of Influence
100 SW 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

To members of the Women of Influence selection committee:

Please accept this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mary Edrington. I had the good fortune to enroll in one of Professor Edrington's undergraduate courses at Drake University more than 25 years ago. Today, I am honored to be among her full-time colleagues at the institution.

Mary is exceptionally qualified to be named among the 2017 Women of Influence:

- **Success in her chosen field** - Mary holds the unique distinction of having been named Outstanding Teacher of the Year at Drake University, as well as Outstanding Mentor of the Year. These are the highest honors a faculty member can earn. To win one would be considered the pinnacle of one's academic career; to have won both awards, and to have been nominated multiple times for each, is exceptionally rare, to say the least.
- **Lasting impact on the community** - A conservative estimate would be that Mary has taught more than 10,000 students and advised at least 2,500 more over the past three decades. Knowing that many Drake alumni stay in the area after graduation, it's no reach to say that Mary has made immeasurable impact on brain gain for the Des Moines business community. Additionally, Mary has consulted extensively, and she has delivered many executive courses and workshops to help develop full-time professionals across the metro.
- **Involvement with civic and/or nonprofit organizations** - Mary's list of contributions to Drake University and other nonprofit organizations is extensive. She's served on dozens of committees and boards, including her current commitments as a board member for the Des Moines Symphony, Drake University Bulldog Board, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
- **Role model for other women** - As noted above, Mary has personally touched the lives of thousands, and while doing so, she has been recognized as being the very best at both instruction and advising. She sets the bar high for herself and those she teaches and mentors.

A woman of influence? Absolutely. In fact, it's impossible to think of any person who has mentored and shaped more lives and careers locally than my cherished mentor, Professor Edrington. Thank you so much for giving Mary your full consideration for this well-deserved honor.

Sincerely,



David L. Remund, Ph.D, APR, Fellow PRSA
Executive Director | University Communications
Research Affiliate and Adjunct Professor | School of Journalism and Mass Communication