



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

May 24, 2017

Women of Influence Selection Committee
Business Record
Des Moines, IA

Dear Women of Influence Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to nominate Beth Townsend as a 2017 Business Record Women of Influence. Since appointing Beth Townsend as Director of Iowa Workforce Development, she has transformed the agency, leading approximately 650 employees across the State of Iowa, rebuilding an agency that had faced difficult challenges in the prior year.

Upon meeting Beth in 2011, who was an attorney in private practice, in the area of employment law, I appointed her Executive Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, where she oversaw the day-to-day management of the Commission, and supervised 27 employees. Through her leadership, she completely reconstructed the agency— improving everything from policy to production standards— and the results included elimination of a lengthy investigative backlog, providing timely and competent mediation services, accountability from all staff and improved customer service.

Because of the positive results Beth delivered at ICRC, in 2015, I appointed her Executive Director, Iowa Workforce Development to improve morale, productivity and customer service for employees, employers and job-seekers, among other things. In April of last year, she was confirmed by a unanimous vote in the Iowa Senate. In little more than a year, she and her team have repaired strained relationships with employers, streamlined processes to deliver effective, efficient unemployment and workforce resources to Iowans who need them most and reestablished the credibility of the organization statewide with key stakeholders. She has traveled the State meeting and working with key stakeholders. In addition, she has proven to be an influential role model for emerging leaders both on her staff and in the Greater Des Moines community, including her participation in the Iowa Women Lead Change Challenge.

Beth Townsend is an attorney and an Air Force veteran who served this country as a Judge Advocate General for more than 20 years. She served as a trial judge in the United States Air Force Reserve, deciding cases, which directly affected the rights and liberties of Air Force members, as well as the discipline, morale and mission effectiveness of Air Force units. As a military judge, she was vested with independent authority to issue final, binding decisions on criminal, evidentiary, and procedural issues for tribunals and UCMJ actions worldwide. She is an accomplished leader in the legal profession, who translated her military experience to the private sector as a civilian jurist.

She is a member of the Iowa State Bar and the Nebraska State Bar. She serves on several boards, including the STEM Advisory Council, iJag Board of Directors, EDGE Board of Directors, Iowa Innovation Council and Home Base Iowa Executive Council. Beth's work in support of the Home Base Iowa has been instrumental in streamlining services provided to veterans in Iowa. She is a Native American and proud member of the Choctaw nation and is the mother to an adult son.

Her outstanding resume speaks for itself. It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Beth Townsend to be selected as one of Business Record's 2017 Women of Influence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terry E. Branstad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa