

**Andy Roberts**  
*Business Manager*

**PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS  
LOCAL UNION 33**  
*BUILDING UNION IS GOOD BUSINESS*

**Nick Cerrato**  
*Business Representative*

May 23, 2017

Women of Influence Selection Committee  
Business Record  
100 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Women of Influence Selection Committee:

It is my honor to nominate Beth Townsend as a 2017 Business Record Women of Influence. As a member of the State Workforce Board, the chair of the Minority Unemployment and Outreach Standing Committee, and the business manager for Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 33, I personally have witnessed the drive, passion, energy and commitment she brings to strengthening Iowa's workforce as the Director of Iowa Workforce Development.

After former State Representative Wayne Ford brought to the forefront the issue of disparities in the minority unemployment rate in Iowa to the State Workforce Development Board, Director Townsend immediately aligned resources to find solutions. This included the establishment of the Minority Unemployment and Outreach Standing Committee in February of 2017. More importantly, she set forth the ambitious goal of reducing the unemployment rate in minority communities by five percent in five years.

Director Townsend has personally participated in the majority of listening tours that have been held in the four targeted counties where there are high concentrations of minority residents and unemployment rates: Polk, Dubuque, Black Hawk and Pottawattamie. Her commitment to hearing directly from those impacted gives her a deeper and more holistic understanding of the issues.

This commitment is further evidenced by her leadership with Future Ready Iowa and the Future Ready Iowa Alliance. Iowa Workforce Development is the lead agency to help the Alliance complete its work. This includes developing and recommending a strategic plan by October 2017 of how Iowa will reach the Future Ready Iowa goal of 70 percent of its workforce having education or training beyond high school by 2025. Director Townsend's vision will assure the work being done by the Minority Unemployment and Outreach Subcommittee aligns with the Future Ready Iowa Alliance recommendations.



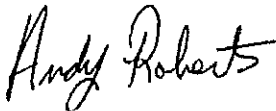
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The State of Iowa is fortunate to have Director Townsend's leadership for advancing Iowa's workforce. She continues to work tirelessly to encourage Iowans to obtain the education and soft skills to ensure employers have the skilled workers necessary in today's technological driven economy. Her foresight on growing Registered Apprenticeship Programs throughout the state will help to address both the minority unemployment and Future Ready Iowa goals.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Human progress in neither automatic nor inevitable...Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

Dr. King's quote is a perfect summary of Director Townsend's contributions. She is a dedicated individual who is influencing Iowa's future – now. I am proud and honored to support her nomination as a 2017 Business Record Women of Influence.

Sincerely,



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