



200 First Street SE, Suite 2100 | Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

May 24, 2017

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

Dear Women of Influence Selection Committee:

On behalf of Iowa Women Lead Change, it is our pleasure to nominate Beth Townsend for the 2017 Business Record Women of Influence.

As the Director of Iowa Workforce Development and a female leader, Director Townsend has been instrumental in the statewide launch of the EPIC Corporate Challenge, an invitation to Iowa companies to formally commit to grow and retain women at all levels. The EPIC Corporate Challenge is an initiative of Iowa Women Lead Change and is endorsed by former Governor Branstad and Governor Kim Reynolds.

The EPIC Corporate Challenge is a unique public, private partnership. Serving as the EPIC Corporate Challenge co-chair, Director Townsend's passion and expertise on government and private business collaboration has been instrumental in launching the challenge and helping it grow its momentum. With only two other states offering the challenge and the **only** state measuring the results, we value Director Townsend's leadership and vision to help us move forward swiftly.

Since its launch in March of 2016, the EPIC Corporate Challenge has grown to 55 member organizations throughout the state that are committed to recruiting, retaining and promoting women in the workforce. Director Townsend played a critical role in this overwhelming response.

Both of us have been honored with being recognized as a Corridor Business Journal Woman of Influence in the past. We enthusiastically support Director Townsend's nomination for the Business Record Women of Influence as we have witnessed firsthand her positive influence for women, the business community and the State of Iowa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Diane Ramsey'.

Diane Ramsey  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tiffany O'Donnell'.

Tiffany O'Donnell  
Chief Operating Officer