



**DOWNING**

— OVER 50 YEARS —

May 25, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support for Meg Schneider of the Greater Des Moines Partnership as a more than deserving candidate for the 2017 Meredith Emerging Women of Influence. I have had the pleasure of working very closely with Meg over the past two and a half years while serving on The Partnership's Affiliates Council. Meg is a division leader at The Partnership and leads her team to help support 23 affiliate chambers of commerce and over 6,000 regional businesses. Meg is always the first person to offer up her time or additional resources for the affiliate chamber members and their staff and/or boards. She is incredibly connected on a national level and has been able to expose over 5,400 small business owners to resources that they likely never would have had the opportunity to be presented with. Her leadership with implementing and maintaining the dual membership model is a huge reason why The Partnership is recognized as the 4<sup>th</sup> largest regional chamber in the nation. Her leadership and willingness to continuously improve both herself and her organization have helped put Des Moines on the map and allowed Des Moines to battle head to head with national powerhouse cities like Dallas, Austin, Nashville, Atlanta, and Indianapolis. Meg does all of this while maintaining an incredible work/life balance as she raises her young son. She is an inspiration for those looking for a leader to model themselves after and is without a doubt the right person to represent those that have become before her as Meredith Emerging Women of Influence. Please strongly consider Meg Schneider with the Greater Des Moines Partnership for this year's award, as she is highly deserving of such an accomplished award.

Respectfully submitted,  
Downing Construction, Inc.

*Justin Brown*

Justin Brown, Partner