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Business Record
The Depot at 4th, 100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my privilege to nominate Wendy Srnicek as a "2018 Woman of Influence".

Wendy is the mother of 4 young children, has a demanding and challenging career, and is passionate about nurturing women working in agriculture – balancing it all with grace and humility. Wendy, who grew up on a farm in Michigan and there developed her passion for agriculture, currently leads the Corteva Agrisciences, Agriculture Division of DowDuPont (formerly DuPont Pioneer) Integrated Field Sciences North and South America Field Research Organization focusing on all aspects of integrated product characterization and advancement for all crops. Earlier in her career, seeing a need for women-to-women peer mentors to share tips and experiences at Pioneer, Wendy started a 'Women in Science' mentoring group, consisting of an ever-green group of Graduate Students, Public Institution Scientists, and Pioneer women. The group of ~7-10 meets monthly for 1 hour to discuss topics related to women's career development while supporting & challenging each other. Wendy was the 2016 Chair of the Pioneer Women's Network (PWN, a DuPont Pioneer Employee Resource Group), and under her leadership, energized the PWN with her passion and enthusiasm to help working women throughout the company. She has helped form initiatives on leadership, career development and outreach to support, attract and develop women for careers in the agriculture. She currently mentors with 4 women. A talented scientist herself (Wendy holds a Ph.D. in Crop Science & Weed Science), she is a past DuPont representative for CAST (Council for Agriculture Science and Technology), and has served as a mentor for the AFA (Agriculture Future of America). It is not unusual to frequently see Wendy in both formal and informal mentoring roles around campus (panel discussions on challenges women face in the workplace at AgCon, meeting with the New Zealand Future Problem Solvers girls, or mentoring college students). In addition to her professional roles, Wendy contributes to her community as an active member of St. Demetrius Serbian Orthodox church and is helping establish agricultural operations for a new Orthodox Monastery in northern Missouri. She also volunteers for the Pioneer Homeless Assistance Team serving/contributing to meals at the Central Iowa Shelter in Des Moines. While balancing a full professional and community outreach schedule Wendy and her husband Goran are raising their 4 young, active children. A bi-cultural, bi-lingual family, they speak and teach Serbian at home with their children, and actively immerse them in a global society by frequent international travel and house guests. Wendy really does "do it all" with ease, patience and maturity, but

acknowledges that it isn't always easy (or pretty!). By sharing her stories – the good, bad, and comical, she encourages other employees in their career and family goals. Raising 4 children while working in a demanding and dynamic research organization is inspirational and Wendy's presence at DuPont Pioneer is a wonderful role model to countless women and mothers. Her professional contributions, leadership, educational achievements, strength through adversity, compassion and desire to help others succeed, makes her a wonderful example of what it means to be a "Woman of Influence".

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further discussion at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laura S. Higgins".

Laura S. Higgins, Ph.D., BCE
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