May 6th, 2019

Business Record

The Depot at Fourth,

100 4th Street

Des Moines, Iowa, 50309

Dear Esteemed Committee Members,

It is with deepest conviction that I wholeheartedly recommend Ruxandra Looft as a nominee for the Women of Influence 2019 Award.

Sandra and I first met in the summer of 2014 when, as an incoming freshman at Iowa State University, I visited Ames for Orientation Day. I’d decided that I needed the entirety of my questions answered that very day and Sandra, as my then-advisor, graciously took time out of her schedule to invite me into her office and assuage all my worries. Since then, I have had the pleasure of having Sandra serve as my academic advisor for all four years of my undergraduate education and I enthusiastically watched her rise to the position of Director at the Margaret Sloss Center for Women and Gender Equity. Most importantly, she has remained my guiding light and moral compass.

Sandra exudes excellence in everything she does. As an academic advisor, I cannot think of anyone more kind and more willing to listen than Sandra. She was well known for her “open door” policy in the World Languages Department, and it was never uncommon to walk past her office and hear peals of laughter from both her and her advisees. The pure positivity and joy she brought to the everyday was inspiring. As a student, I had the pleasure of studying abroad with Sandra in Berlin, Germany where she co-led a seminar on Art, Architecture, and Memorials. Sandra deftly handles intense topics of inclusivity, diversity, and discrimination, making them easily understandable and engaging for students of all levels.

Finally, I know Sandra as an advocate for gender equity on Iowa State’s campus. Sandra continually fights for all voices to be heard at the table, intuitively knowing when to lead the conversation and when to let others be heard. She is ever affirming and always supportive of marginalized faculty, staff, and students across all disciplines. As the Director of the Sloss Center at Iowa State, I have been able to witness how she has positively transformed the Center into a place of openness and dialogue, reflecting the values by which I know she lives her life.

Sandra would be outstanding as a recipient of the Women of Influence 2019 award. If you have any questions regarding her passion and commitment, please don’t hesitate to contact me at 319-270-6501.

Sincerely,

Collin D. Powell