May 17, 2019

Dear Women of Influence Selection Committee:

Pat Miller has become a legend at Iowa State University. Starting as an assistant to Professor James Lowrie, working for the ISU Lectures Program in the early 1980s, Pat has developed that program to become one of the largest and most comprehensive college lectures programs in the nation.

Her leadership in working with the student-faculty lectures committee is awesome. That committee includes great diversity in philosophy, politics, economics, faith, gender, race and nationality. With such broad representation, one would expect lots of challenges to civility, yet Pat maintains a strong relationship with each of the committee members. Each committee member is given the opportunity to offer their thoughts for programming.

A conversation with Pat, sharing her memories of the thousands of fascinating individuals hosted by ISU, might include her appearance on Jay Leno’s *Tonight Show* talking about the taste of chocolate-covered crickets or her collection of the ashes from Gloria Steinem’s cigarette. She might share the awe of a university sophomore assigned the task of picking up a presidential candidate at the airport and making sure that the desired bowl of fruits is on hand in her hotel room. Clearly, the demands of Lectures Committee are diverse.

Pat has a financial skill that is one key to her success. She combines her own budget with that of a department to jointly finance a desired visitor for a lecture, then uses her own negotiating skills to get the best price, since all the lectures are free to students and the public. The sponsoring department has the advantage of Pat’s experience in working out the many details involved in making the experience good for the audience and the lecturer. ISU department heads are universally aware of the benefits of working collaboratively with Pat Miller, and indeed they all know her.

Pat has recently retired after more than 35 years, leaving a sound structure for continuing many great educational opportunities for students and indeed for the community. Pat has given Iowa a great gift. She is certainly a Woman of Influence for her leadership in developing one of the best university lectures programs in the country that not only serves and enlightens the university community but also the citizens of Iowa.

Gratefully,

Johnie Hammond

Iowa State Representative, 1983-1995

Iowa State Senator, 1995-2003

Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame, 2005 inductee