

May 10, 2016

Business Record  
Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence  
100 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Review Committee,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Ms. Brianne Sanchez as a nominee for the Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence Award. Brianne reports to me at Des Moines University but her involvement in our community goes far beyond our campus environment. Brianne came to DMU with a commitment to community and is perfectly suited for her role as she can reach out and connect the many great things being done at DMU with the community of Des Moines. The central Iowa area has benefited a great deal from the leadership Brianne has offered and that she will continue to offer going forward.

Beyond her involvement at DMU she has already achieved many things and has placed a solid foundation for young professionals through the work she has done. Brianne was the co-organizer of TEDxDes Moines in 2011. As a result of many of her contacts, the relationships have helped our community in several ways including this year Des Moines will serve as the host city for CEO for Cities. It was Brianne who first brought Lee Fisher, the CEO of the organization, to Des Moines.

Brianne was the founding co-chair for YNPN. The Young Nonprofit Professionals Network was launched in January 2013 and has quickly grown into a vibrant organization. This group offers our young leaders knowledge, resources and support in the work they are doing in our community. This past January, I participated in a seminar Brianne organized for this group with the topic of advocacy. It was surprising to see the overwhelming interest in this topic by a large number of members attending this YNPN seminar. The auditorium of the State Historical Center was full of eager young advocates and each came with questions and issues for the nonprofit organizations they represented. Brianne engaged a number of professional lobbyists in the half day training, she brought in a national speaker and she had breakout sessions with several seasoned professionals. The participants all walked away with a greater commitment and the tools they needed to advocate to their elected representatives to improve our community and to support our citizens. It was a pleasure to see how the work of one person could have such a positive impact on so many.

Brianne has a very strategic approach to her work and a strong commitment to community, so it is no surprise the high number of people who approach me in our community and express their appreciation for the mentoring she has offered to other young people or the organizational suggestions to those following this incredible role model that she is for our future leaders. There are many other groups Brianne has impacted in a positive way but suffice it to say there is no doubt she is an emerging woman of influence and this award would be the well-deserved recognition from our community that would only propel her to do more. She is an example to our young women of how you can balance work and family. With her two small children and a supportive husband, it is important for young women in our community to see someone like Brianne who is making a tremendous contribution to the future through her involvement.

Thank you for your consideration of Brianne Sanchez for this award.

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