



# EDUCATION LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

United Way of Central Iowa

May 26, 2016

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Megan Ruble for the Business Record's "Meredith Emerging Business Woman of the Year" award. I have had the pleasure of working with her for nearly six years through my position as Director of Education Leadership Initiative (ELI) at United Way and through my involvement with the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute. During my time with United Way, Megan has served on the ELI Advisory and ELI Special Events Committees. She Chaired the Special Events Committee for a number of years.

ELI has been around since 2004 and Megan has been very instrumental in helping grow membership within the group. She knows that there is nothing as powerful as a group of people coming together for a common purpose. Megan led the charge for ELI's biggest event to date (10-Year Anniversary Celebration). This event was highly successful and members still talk about this event even though it was two years ago. Reflecting back on this event, I can't recall the last time I worked with someone more focused, dependable and enthusiastic when it came to planning the 10-Year Celebration.

Highly creative and well-organized, Megan has been a valuable member of the ELI Advisory and Special Events Committee and success we have seen with the group would not have been possible without Megan's leadership. Her commitment and integrity is just as evident when I see her interacting with the many business leaders of our community. Megan does an excellent job of making every person she works with feel her appreciation and thanks in a special way. Not only does she continue to encourage us to grow the mission of United Way, she encourages everyone to continue to grow individually through the united spirit of giving.

Megan is a passionate community leader, who wants to create opportunities for all to succeed in central Iowa. Megan has utilized her skills as a leader to ensure students are supported during middle school and successfully make the transition from middle to high school and succeed through graduation—a building block for a good life.. Megan is a passionate, focused leader and clear communicator, poised to make Central Iowa a place of opportunity for all people.

Her dedication and passion to the investments supported by United Way and ELI is evident as I see Megan at each and every volunteer event I attend around the city. Her example of truly 'Living United' has influenced many people whose paths she crosses, and her tireless dedication to the people of Central Iowa continues to be an inspiration. Megan's sense of humor, hubris, honesty and her dedication to the cause make each opportunity to interact with her a great experience. It is without question that she epitomizes what the Meredith Emerging Business Women of the Year award represents. I am thankful for her involvement and grateful to be included in her long list of 'working friends.'

Best Regards,

Chase Young  
Director, Education Leadership Initiative  
United Way of Central Iowa