



## GREATER DES MOINES PARTNERSHIP

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May 25, 2016

Women of Influence Selection Committee  
c/o Business Publications Corp.  
100 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence Nomination - Amy Jennings

I am writing on behalf of Amy Jennings as a nominee for the 2016 for the Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence Award. I have had the privilege to know Amy for more than a decade and work with her first as a leader of the Young Professionals Connection and into her role as the Executive Director of Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute.

Shortly after joining YPC it was evident through her actions and passion that she would leave a lasting mark on the organization, and she did. While the organization was five years old when Amy took the helm as President, it was under her leadership that YPC set forth its foundational purpose and mission which continue to drive the course of the organization today. Through her inclusive leadership, she led the organization to a new level of professionalism, participation, community awareness and community engagement.

In 2011, the Greater Des Moines Leadership was contracting support staff through the Greater Des Moines Partnership. Through discussions with GDMLI leadership regarding their plans for future growth and organizational development it was clear to all of us they needed to transition to a full-time professional executive director. Knowing that Amy was considering a career move, I knew she was the right person for the job and asked her to become the interim Executive Director to assist in the transition. Just as she did with YPC, Amy led the Board and stakeholders through an inclusive strategic planning and development process resulting in the stronger, sustainable, impactful organization we see today.

Amy epitomizes the role of servant leader. She keeps the organization on goal and true to mission while encouraging active participation and respecting the role of every volunteer leader and participants of the various GDMLI initiatives. She is a visionary who thinks big but ensures that all aspects and ramifications are thoroughly vetted before decisions are made. With Amy it is always about the "we" and never about the "me".

Amy's enthusiasm and positive attitude spread through to all who work with her. No matter what the task, when you work with Amy it is guaranteed to be fun, rewarding and meaningful. It is also guaranteed to be delivered as promised.

Amy is one of greater Des Moines' "shining stars" who has and will continue to be a leader in our community. She constantly strives for growth and excellence in herself and those around her; therefore, I believe Amy would be an excellent recipient of this award. Thank you for your consideration of Amy Jennings.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Bontrager  
Executive Vice President