

May 18, 2018

Business Record  
The Depot at 4<sup>th</sup>, 100 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my privilege to nominate Nina Richtman as a “Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence”.

Nina is a single mother of two adopted children with disabilities, is a valuable contributor to her Corteva Agriscience™, Agriculture Division of DowDuPont™ research & R&D Excellence teams, and is passionate about volunteerism and advocacy. In 2016, Nina was foundational in establishing the Pioneer Employees with Disabilities and Allies (PDAN) Employee Resource Group (ERG) which she now co-chairs. Since its inception, PDAN has been the fastest growing ERG at Pioneer and seeks to increase awareness, empathy and opportunities for those living with disabilities. Beyond this significant local impact to our Pioneer community, Nina is a policy volunteer at the Iowa Statehouse on issues of mental health on behalf of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) and A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy (AMOS). Nina mentors both men and women by volunteering to facilitate “Personal Branding” sessions for the Pioneer Women’s Network as well as successfully created the opportunity for colleagues to attend the Women in Agribusiness Conference in 2016 and 2017. It is common to see Nina volunteering for scientific outreach both within and external to the company. Notable examples include the development and presentation of a hands-on course on “GMO Perceptions” for the Des Moines Central Campus Biotechnology class, serving as training coordinator for DuPont Pioneer’s CRISPR-Cas Stakeholder Outreach and participation in Pioneer’s Research Ambassadors program focusing on developing employee’s influence in scientific outreach. She has also advocated at the U.S. Capitol for the necessity of federal government science funding. You will find Nina active in environmental issues, whether it is volunteering for an Earth Day “Trash Bash” clean-up, or volunteering in visitor engagement and education for Reiman Gardens during graduate school. Nina is a tireless volunteer on Pioneer’s Homeless Assistance Team, regularly coordinating monthly meals at the Central Iowa Shelter that serves approximately 240 homeless or at-risk adults in the Des Moines metro area. In addition to being a powerful force for good within our company, Nina is active in her church community, serving as a Board member, numerous committees, as well as involved in stewardship and fundraising. Nina’s spirit of advocacy and collaboration is present in her work where she demonstrates a culture of open feedback, diversity and inclusion, and collaboration by ensuring these topics are included in meeting agendas and working with partnering groups to actualize collaborative ideas. She is highly respected because of her technical ability, her inspirational attitude, and her selfless passion for helping others reach their potential. She is a passionate advocate on behalf of her colleagues, women employees, disabled employees and their families. She does it all with grace and a smile and her enthusiasm radiates to all who surround her. I hope you agree that Nina beautifully demonstrates the characteristics of a woman of influence!

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further discussion at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Laura S. Higgins, Ph.D., BCE  
Corteva Agriscience™  
Agriculture Division of DowDuPont™  
Integrated Field Sciences, Operational & Scientific Excellence Lead  
7301 NW 62nd Ave.  
Johnston, IA 50131  
Phone: 515-535-2247  
Mobile: 515-229-7062  
Email: [laura.higgins@pioneer.com](mailto:laura.higgins@pioneer.com)