



Dear Nominating Committee,

I am thrilled to recommend Abigail Benge for the 2018 Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence Award. She is very deserving of this honor, as she is one of the most hardworking and dedicated women I have had the pleasure to work with. Her commitment to both her professional career and community involvement are remarkable, especially for someone so young. Abbie graduated from Simpson College at the age of 20 and has been working in the marketing field for the past 3 years.

Abbie began working here at Straub Marketing as a Client Relations Coordinator in December 2016 and since then, we have developed a new position to fully utilize Abbie and all that she is capable of. Her professional career has flourished into much more than we ever could have imagined. Abbie continuously steps up in any department where she is needed. Since beginning her at Straub, she has taken the initiative to learn graphic design, web development, inside sales, project management, print and promotional production and much more. Her ingenuity is admirable and extremely valuable to our small, family owned organization.

In addition to her professional success, Abbie has a passion for helping others and she has created an excellent forum for this by founding a non-profit organization called Do More Iowa. Since its beginning, Do More Iowa has partnered with more than ten local nonprofit organizations and provided assistance in marketing, fundraising, event planning and promotion. Over the course of 2 years, Abbie has taken this dream and turned it into a reality. She has recruited a board of directors, gained 501c3 status, and laid the groundwork for a thriving organization that has done and will continue to do great things in the future.

I have also been impressed by Abbie's commitment to education, as she is currently working toward her Masters Degree in Public Administration, with a focus on Non-Profit Management. She is halfway through the program, earning a 4.0 GPA, while balancing her work with Do More Iowa and achieving success in her marketing career.

I look forward to seeing the difference Abbie is able to make in the Des Moines community over the next several years. With Abbie's drive and passion, the sky is the limit for what she will be able to accomplish. We need more young people like Abbie, who are willing to step up and take the lead in making our community a better place to live and work. That is why it is my honor to recommend Abbie for the Emerging Woman of Influence Award.

All my best,

Lynn Foreman
Business Development Consultant
Straub Marketing

