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COMMITTEES

Rules & Administration, *Ranking Member*
Commerce
Judiciary

The Senate

State of Iowa
Eighty-eighth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, IA 50319

May 21, 2019

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

Please accept my enthusiastic recommendation of Nancy Mwiroti for the 2019 Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence Award.

I met Nancy several years ago while doing outreach work with the refugee community in my district. At the time, Nancy was just getting started with her nonprofit PI 515 – Pursuit of Innovation. It took hard work and perseverance for Nancy to get her organization off the ground. I saw her tackle cultural and equality roadblocks with fierce determination. She is not scared to speak truth to power and engage in tough conversations that need to happen.

Through her work, Nancy has helped countless young refugees and underserved youth in our community. Exposing her students to coding, innovation and critical thinking, opens their eyes to new opportunities and dreams that they didn't realize were within their reach before joining her program.

Nancy is a trusted adult for so many young people who need a connection to care in the community. Participants' families are acclimating to a new life, new language, new jobs and new culture. Their struggles are significant, but Nancy still has high expectations for her kids and it is paying off. She exposes them to community events and activities, takes their calls and texts for help practically around the clock, and most importantly, she helps them believe in themselves.

As the rest of the country is still working to figure out how to open more doors of opportunity in the tech industry to women and people of color, they should be looking to Nancy and the work she is doing in Des Moines. Nancy had a vision and she's making it happen! That's why I believe Nancy should be named the 2019 Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Petersen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janet" being more prominent.

Janet Petersen