

Susan Erickson, ASLA  
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June 3, 2014

To the Selection Committee:

I am writing to heartily recommend Ann Sobiech-Munson for the Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence Award.

I have known Ann for several years, both personally and professionally. Ann moved to Slater several years ago, but I heard news of her even before she moved to my community. Her former neighbors (work colleagues of mine) let me know how lucky Slater was to gain such a valuable citizen. I initially met Ann when we both worked at Iowa State University several years ago.

Ann is an active community member who puts her skills to good use in a variety of ways. She has been involved in several youth-related activities as a parent-volunteer, for example, she has been a coach for a youth First Lego League team. Her dedication to this time-demanding effort shows how she values fostering creativity and problem-solving skills among the youth of the community. She is a savvy and caring neighbor who knows and cares for the children in the neighborhood.

Ann has also reached out to the wider community as a member of her church, as well as the Slater Garden and Study Club, where she interacts with an older demographic group and puts her enthusiasm for the natural world to profitable use in the community. Ann, as a member of this community group, cares for several garden plots around Slater, promotes learning among Garden Club members, and helps raise funds for worthy community projects.

Ann and I were elected in November 2013 to the Slater City Council and were sworn in as new Council members, taking office in January 2014. I appreciated Ann's enthusiasm and wisdom as we ran our council campaigns in a collaborative manner. I have been a Slater resident for most of my life and it was remarkable to watch Ann during our campaign time and to observe the leadership she showed while interacting with residents of all ages and community groups. There has been good community support for two women on the City Council, and I look forward to Ann growing in leadership as we both gain more experience in city governance.

Ann would be a worthy recipient of this award and I urge you to give her nomination serious consideration.

Best regards,  
Susan Erickson

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