

6/6/2014

To: Nomination Committee, Emerging Women of Influence
Re: Nomination letter for Laura Allen – Emerging Women of Influence

I am privileged to nominate Laura Allen for the Meredith Emerging Women of Influence Award for 2014. As a wife, mother and accomplished professional Laura excels as a leader, mentor and role model. Her passion and enthusiasm is contagious and through her collaborative, inclusive style she strives to bring the best out in everyone. She is a thought leader who generously shares her broad knowledge of our business. On an ongoing basis, I have personally benefited from her guidance and counsel. These attributes are certainly those of an influential individual and effective team member.

In her 10 years with Nationwide, Laura has served our company in a number of capacities, including Regional and Staff Operations Director and Underwriting Director. In March, Laura's leadership talents were further recognized by being elected to an officer position with Nationwide. As Associate Vice President for our Commercial Lines Customer Service Center, Laura now leads 150 associates in three locations across the country. I am extremely pleased that a business function so important to Nationwide's success is under her guidance.

Beyond Laura's dedication to Nationwide, she gives time to making Des Moines and her home community better places to live. She joined the board of directors of Children and Families Urban Movement (CFUM) in 2011, and currently serves as Vice President and Chair of its Organizational Effectiveness Committee. CFUM's mission is to create a community that supports the potential of children, youth, and families through educational success, healthy living, and community engagement. She regularly attends activities for the children CFUM works with, and helps serve community meals at its Supper Club. Laura also currently serves as Vice President of the Van Meter Education Foundation dedicated to funding scholarships and providing student financial aid to graduating seniors, as well as other awards programs. She has served on the Foundation Committee since 2009.

I highly recommend Laura for this inaugural award. She leaves a positive mark on all who work with her, both at Nationwide and in the greater community she serves so well.

Sincerely,



Tom Clark,
Sr. Vice President, Field Operations
Nationwide