

June 3, 2014

Women of Influence Selection Committee  
Business Publications Corp.  
100 4th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing in support of Kate Banasiak's nomination. It is difficult for me to put into words how truly fortunate I consider myself to have worked, volunteered and interacted with Kate. Character, poise and decency are some words that can be thrown around easily, but in my interactions with Kate, and conversations with others regarding her, they are the ones that are most appropriate. Kate's commitment to family, friends, colleagues and strangers is admirable and remind me regularly to challenge myself to be a better person (to be more like Kate).

Kate's success in life is equal parts hard work and caring. Kate's actions reminds me of a saying that is dear to me, "...discharge the obligation to others," which, in essence, means to be mindful of those around you and their needs. Kate is the walking embodiment of service. In work and in philanthropy, she always brings perspective and adds that special touch to whatever she is involved with, because that is just who she is in everyday life.

Kate has an influence about her. As you will notice in her resume, she has been asked to be a part of a number of local organizations of influence, and although I could share the impact she has had on other leaders she has come in contact with, her influence is deeper. She has a presence, a unique way of making those around her better. From her staff (which I have never heard her refer to them as "her staff"), to a circle of friends, to other leaders that she has met for the first time, she serves as the glue that not only binds the group but raises us up to be just a little bit better than we were the day before.

Having the opportunity to consult with Kate's company, I have been a part of conversations with the previous owner, Mr. Dick Goodson about Kate's poise. Mr Goodson is (the individual who hired Kate, and who he entrusted to sell the company he built to Kate,. He has complimented her time and time again on her grace under pressure, her ability to take things in stride and maintain perspective while other (clients, friends, family) might get unsettled. I had only known Kate for a short period of time when I first heard Mr. Goodson praise her, but it has all been true and continues to be years later.

Character is usually something that separates one person from another, and Kate has strong character; however, she also has a way of putting people at ease, making them feel better about themselves and giving them the confidence to take on the days' challenges. Not separating herself, but placing herself right next to you, signifying she is in it with you. Kate is a role model for our global community and thankfully her work and play (as volunteering is a true pleasure for her), puts her on a global stage.

She believes in family and brining awareness to the community around her, and my evaluation is that she has done that beyond reproach. As a chair of numerous search, award and nomination committees, I do not envy what is undoubtedly a difficult position for you to be in, but I am confident once you consider the words of support Kate has been given, you will see parallels to the spirit of this award and the mission of the Business Record. Thank you for your consideration of Kate Banasiak's nomination as an Emerging Woman of Influence.

Sincerely,

Chris Juhl  
Volunteer Manager  
Science Center of Iowa