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Nationwide Sales Solutions, Inc.

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In reviewing the 2014 Women of Influence Criteria, the person who automatically came to mind was Sara Schuler. Sara is a highly regarded professional, consistently works to positively impact our community, sets the standard for our company's Human Resource guidelines and strives to grow in her chosen profession. I'd like to provide a few examples of how Sara embodies the Women of Influence Criteria each and every day.

During Sara's tenure at Nationwide Insurance, she was quickly recognized for her professional advancement. In just a short time frame, Sara ascended from a Senior Recruiter to now one of the highest ranked Directors of Human Resource in all of Nationwide. In leadership circles, it is typically less challenging to influence direct reports. Yet, she has excelled at influencing her business partners with great ease and care. Sara focuses on others' needs and targets her approach individually. Personally, she has provided me with wise council which has allowed me to better maneuver through difficult situations.

Moreover, Sara has a great desire to improve our community. Many people simply speak about making a difference or being involved. However, Sara puts words into actions by finding ways to make a difference. Early in her career with Nationwide, she made a commitment to be involved with the Junior League of Des Moines. This was just the start to Sara's focus on giving back. With the desire to improve those around her, Sara has recently served as Board Vice President of Hawthorn Hill, as Committee Volunteer at St. Francis of Assisi Church and School, as well as Daisy Girl Scout Troop. Rather than sharing the multitude of volunteer committees Sara has served on, I rather share with you a personal story. As a recent new diverse resident in the Des Moines area, I was eager to find community events that would align with my Latino background. Sara proactively reached out to the community and provide me with a number of ways to be more involved with the community. In addition, Sara found an article of a Colombian gentleman in the Des Moines area and personally delivered the information for me to consider. These actions are true testaments of Sara's giving nature.

As Director of Human Resources, Sara supports an operation of several hundred employees. She faces this challenge head on by consistently working on her craft. This is exemplified by the myriad of Human Resource conferences Sara attends, the number of leadership publications she reads and her willingness to request feedback from all around her. Sara not only develops herself within her profession, but more importantly, she casts a leadership shadow on her team. In my dealings with her direct reports, each is a true professional who offers the utmost level of support. In addition, each direct report is up to date with all current Human Resource trends. From my perspective, Sara's passion to develop herself and her team are examples of her ability to influence growth in her scope of influence.

I believe Sara is a talented and caring individual. It is easy to write about someone's attributes, skills and accomplishment. What is more difficult to communicate is the way someone goes about their every day. Perhaps Sara's biggest attribute is how she does what she does. On a daily basis, Sara walks through life with such joy and comfort. She has an infectious personality, smile and attitude. There isn't a problem or challenge she can not overcome. Her 'can do' attitude not only makes the business better, but more importantly, it makes everyone in contact with Sara a warmer, happier and joyous person.

In closing, it is evident to me Sara consistently demonstrates the criteria for you to choose her as the 2014 Woman of Influence. Sara is successful in all walks of life. She is a great business partner who is highly regarded within our corporation, she is a beacon in our community willing to go the extra mile for everyone and she is a leader who touches everyone in her life in the most positive manner. I look forward in congratulating Sara on this accomplishment.

Richard Conde
Associate Vice President
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