To whom it may concern:

I would like to nominate Teresa Adams-Tomka for the 2018 University of Northern Iowa College of Business Administration Woman Business Owner of the Year Award.

My friendship with Teresa began in January 2011; as a college student at Iowa State University, I wanted to find a part-time job working at a small business that was managed by successful women entrepreneurs. After stepping into Kitchen Collage for the first time, I instantly knew this was home.

Over the past eight years, my pride and respect for Teresa and the business that she has built has continued to grow. She emulates multiple areas of the criteria including:

Investment in time mentoring others

Teresa has personally served as my mentor for many years. Her experience, poise and giving nature have provided me countless opportunities to further my personal growth. From including me on managerial duties as a college student to a yearly inclusion at the Housewares Show in Chicago and meetups when I am back in Des Moines, each time has provided me the opportunity to sponge from her rich story. Her dedication in health, family and work is what I strive to be.

Strong business community network connections

Teresa is a true giver to the Des Moines community and her generosity to local businesses and organizations is admirable. Examples include Above and Beyond, Iowa State Fair, local not-for-profit giving, Des Moines Social Club are just a few to name. She strives to help others succeed and teach, not for her own benefit, but rather to benefit the population.

History of the company and impact individual has had on the organization

Teresa has not stayed stagnant with her almost 20 year business. From her early adoption of the East Village to putting the collage aspect in Kitchen Collage, she has given the community what they need (most cases well before they knew they wanted it). Her ability to adapt has helped the business grow multiple times over; this includes cooking classes, investing in youth and taking a pledge to being healthy not only serves the business but the community around.

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