

Athena Leadership Awards  
Letter of Support  
Nominee: Megan Brown-Saldana

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Megan Brown-Saldana for the Women of Influence Award. I have known Megan for three years and have been consistently impressed by her dedication to the mission of empowering women in the Quad Cities Area and beyond. As Executive Director of Lead(h)er, Megan has made a huge impact on our community by fueling career and community engagement for young professional women. She has sought out innovative opportunities to partner with mission-aligned organizations in order to maximize the amount of outreach and impact Lead(h)er has in the community. Her passion and dedication inspire women to invest in one-another and think deeply about their role in supporting other women. Under Megan's leadership, Lead(h)er has connected almost 1,000 local women and fueled their career growth through its mentorship program.

Megan is a passionate advocate for her community and a true believer in the notion that a rising tide lifts all boats. I've been able to work with Megan on brainstorming and actualizing projects that have helped to elevate both of our organizations. Through these collaborations we were both able to better serve our respective audiences by creating more opportunities for connecting and learning from shared experiences. Megan is professional, creative, calm under pressure, and a true pleasure to work with! Prior to joining Lead(h)er, Megan worked in higher education where she focused on career and college readiness for at-risk populations.

Megan's experience, drive and vision for empowering and serving women is truly inspiring, she makes an incredible impact through the work she does and her personal commitment to supporting and empowering our community. I strongly encourage you to consider Megan Brown-Saldana for this well-earned recognition.

Respectfully,

Megan Tarasi  
Director- Professional Development  
St. Ambrose University