

Nominations for SME's Women of Excellence Awards must be no longer than 250 words per question response. Please be thorough in your responses and be sure to answer the given questions in detail, providing examples and stories. All judging is done "blind" with removal of nominees' names and identifying information, meaning your written nomination is all the judges have to go by when making their decision on who becomes our Women of Excellence Awards winners! Below are some exceptionally written nominations to exemplify what the judges are looking for:

EXAMPLE NOMINATION 1:

Provide an example of how your nominee demonstrated skill development and growth within the category of her nomination?

This nominee has had a significant impact on the business and non-profit community in several ways. She is a born and bred connector - of people, resources, and organizations. She believes in collaboration between entities, sharing of resources and increasing opportunities for everyone involved. She has a true passion for helping others, and wants to make a difference in her work and personal life alike. During her tenure at a local nonprofit, she led the campaign which raises funds for the ongoing operations of the organization. One year, during the three-month campaign, while managing 100+ people and engaging a whole new group of volunteers, they raised over \$250,000 which was a record campaign. Another great accomplishment for the nonprofit was the four years she ran their Golf Tournament. In that time, she raised over \$500,000 for underprivileged children so they could benefit from the services and programs at the nonprofit. The entire Sioux Falls community was impacted from her efforts. She loved being able to interact with the kids, and see how this involvement positively affected their lives.

What achievements has your nominee made, personally and/ or professionally, that are evidence of her qualification for the SME Women of Excellence award nomination?

She has achieved remarkable results for her current company. In her role as Business Development Manager, they have seen a 20% increase in new clients and project load in less than two years. She continues to find new ways to engage in the communities they work in, helping to achieve high client satisfaction from the beginning stages of a project all the way through to completion. What makes this even more impressive is that she had no prior knowledge of the industry. She had a very steep learning curve with industry language, rules and presentation techniques. But she is a dive-in and get it done kind of person who isn't easily deterred by a challenge.

Please share a brief story that illustrates a specific contribution made by your nominee, as well as, her overall impact in her business, organization and community?

She was selected to be a part of Leadership Sioux Falls for the 2018-2019 class. She is a member of Sales and Marketing Executives of Sioux Falls and the Young Professionals Network. She also volunteers her time for the Sioux Empire United Way, serving on the Women Unite Committee, and for the American Cancer Society, serving on the ACS Magic of Hope Gala committee. She also serves at The Banquet a few times a year, and continues to assist the YMCA in various fundraising efforts. This nominee also has a large network of friends and family, and when it comes time to rally around a fundraiser idea or assistance in lending a helping hand, she is always there to assist.

EXAMPLE NOMINATION 2:

Provide an example of how your nominee demonstrated skill development and growth within the category of her nomination?

In the early 1980's, while serving on the Board for the YWCA, this nominee was asked to find a way to unite women's groups that shared a common social agenda. Research led her to an interactive leadership model and consensus- based decision making. Using those skills, she formed the Sioux Falls Women's Network and later became a co-founder of the South Dakota Women's Network. After Advanced Facilitator Institute training and earning a MBA from the Kennedy School, she broadened her practice, consulting in strategic planning for dozens of regional nonprofits, local governments, and businesses. Commuting to Peace Corps, Washington over five years, she led quality improvement teams that redesigned the healthcare delivery system for volunteers in 90 countries. After 15 years as a consultant she accepted first the development/marketing position for a Sioux Falls nonprofit and later became its CEO. During the Great Recession, she developed Transforming Leadership, a series of management workshops for nonprofit leaders who could no longer afford travel to national conferences. Now the president of a nonprofit dedicated to removing obstacles to student success, she developed a three -day Effective Manager workshop to train community volunteers in consensus building, continuous quality improvement and more.

What achievements has your nominee made, personally and/ or professionally, that are evidence of her qualification for the SME Women of Excellence award nomination?

This nominee is the recipient of several awards for volunteerism including the YWCA Distinguished Volunteer of the Year, the Governor's Award for Volunteerism, and the Volunteer and Information Center (now Helpline) Volunteer of the Year Award. A former County Commissioner, she has been recognized for promoting women's role in public life by the National Women's Political Caucus, the YWCA Leader Luncheon, the AAUW Educational Foundation Program, and the National Women's Conference Committee. She is a Bush Fellow, having been recognized for her leadership in her profession and public service. Most recently, she was recognized as a Baby Boomer of the Year by AARP and by Sioux Empire United Way for her philanthropic work.

Please share a brief story that illustrates a specific contribution made by your nominee, as well as, her overall impact in her business, organization and community?

This nominee's story of how she has improved Sioux Falls is remarkable. She facilitated the first domestic violence task force for the chief of police and the first hazardous materials ordinance for the county, designed a conflict resolution process for a debated city street renovation, mediated school district/teacher negotiations, designed and oversaw the Sioux Falls Tomorrow 2004 and 2014 projects, doubled the assets of the nonprofit that she ran and renovated a historic railroad building. She feels that her most lasting contribution comes from the organization that she runs now. She has stepped back from her CEO role, inspired when civic leaders asked her to develop an initiative that could level the playing field for children growing up in disadvantaged families. She accepted the challenge, giving more than 100 presentations to community groups explaining how children are held back by racial, ethnic, or income disparity and how cross- sector collaboration could improve their outcomes. In two years she has built an organization that runs on the power of more than 75 representatives from over 50 local government entities, businesses, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations all dedicated to ensuring that every child in our area succeeds in school and career, she is currently leading Action Teams that are finding new solutions to housing, student safety, and food security challenges. The work she is leading will have a profound effect on our kid's and our community's future!

EXAMPLE NOMINATION 3:

Provide an example of how your nominee demonstrated skill development and growth within the category of her nomination?

In 2018, the nominee's leadership made a significant impact on the annual revenue and the company's overall operating cash flow. She drove the planning, operation and fulfillment that culminated in record-setting sales. In fact, her sales revenue efforts resulted in 220% over the previous record set in 2012.

The nominee began planning for this extraordinary year in 2017. Her forward-thinking approach to open avenues and opportunities impactful to client needs set the stage for an incredible 2018. Her strong communication with the external vendor team as well as the internal team supported a clear path and a direction for inclusion, commitment and accountability. She allocated time for industry research and dedicated the findings to a client-focused plan. Encouraged by the opportunity, she influenced internal company decision-makers for support.

What achievements has your nominee made, personally and/ or professionally, that are evidence of her qualification for the SME Women of Excellence award nomination?

This nominee's list of accolades is long. She received the prestigious Silver Medal Award from the South Dakota Advertising Federation. The award recognizes men and women who have made outstanding contributions to advertising and who have been active in furthering the industry's standards, creative excellence and responsibility in areas of social concern.

This nominee is a phenomenal company ambassador and is incredibly devoted to her community. She's served on the Sioux Empire Red Cross Board of Directors and chaired the organization's fundraising efforts from 2007-2010. She's a committee member of Hot Harley Nights, which has raised more than \$3 million for Make-A-Wish South Dakota. And, she serves on the Sioux Empire United Way corporate gifts committee.

Please share a brief story that illustrates a specific contribution made by your nominee, as well as, her overall impact in her business, organization and community?

Once the research and planning were complete, this nominee dedicated incredible efforts towards implementation. She managed an additional 99 accounts in 12 months and drove \$360,000+ in additional revenue on one cable network alone. It's a bit hard to narrow this to a specific incident or supportive story, because this nominee is dedicated daily to achievement and making sure each client is served, even when the hours are long and the day feels short. There is a narrow seasonality to her revenue-generating work and the work needs to be completed in a tiny time frame. Somehow, she gets it done! In addition, she is reluctant to take credit. At the end of the record-setting season, she included each and every person who supported her in the success. Even though she is a team of one, she shared the congratulations with many.