

September 6, 2013

KUCIMAT Awards Committee,

It is our pleasure to nominate Jan Perkins (class of 1976) for the 2013 KUCIMAT Lifetime Achievement Award. The purpose of this award is to "recognize individuals who have, through cumulative career achievements and successes furthered the purpose of the KUCIMAT organization." There is no more deserving person for this award than Jan.

The four of us share a common bond (besides being proud KUCIMATs): we've all worked for, and know firsthand the force of nature that is Jan Perkins. Watching Jan up close gave all of us an appreciation for her deep work ethic, her high level of emotional intelligence, her skill at navigating tricky Council relations, her strong commitment to ethical behavior and her ability to lead a large organization through challenging times with finesse. All of these traits and many more, contributed to Jan's success as a city management professional, and have inspired so many of us who have come in contact with her over these years.

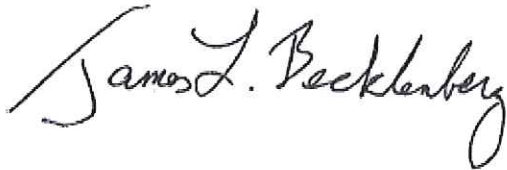
Those of us who know Jan know that she has been an incredibly hard worker since the day she was born. Whether that work ethic was focused on her studies, her music, her job, or her relationships, Jan embodies the admonition in Ecclesiastes 9:10, "whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." She was very often the first one in the office, chipping away at emails or reports hours before anyone else was in, and not uncommonly the last one out the door, fully prepared for whatever meeting was on her schedule the next day. Jan will openly acknowledge her incredible drive and commitment while still keeping an amazing sense of humor and perspective. One year at the Fremont all-employee picnic, Jan got up in front of everyone with one of the female Police Captains and sang a modern rendition of the Beatles "Eight Days a Week" complete with references to how many emails and messages she sent out.

Throughout Jan's storied and successful career she has mentored young professionals. Whether that was through the Practitioner-in-Residence program for the on-campus KUCIMAT students in 1996/97, hiring a number of interns throughout her career, spearheading and supporting the Women Leading Government group in California, nurturing the Inspiring Women In Public Administration Conference at KU, or just providing one-on-one advice, guidance and counseling to a bevy of early or mid-career professionals who looked to her. Jan's guidance and counseling goes beyond her willingness to share her professional journey. Her genuine spirit is what inspires others to remain engaged in the profession and in life. Jan is fully committed to mentoring aspiring professionals. By reaching out to those who may benefit from her assistance, she has shown us her authentic interest in helping others improve. Her willingness to share personal stories, those that show her heart, vulnerability, humanity and her tenacity in facing and overcoming obstacles with a triumphant spirit is an inspiration. She has left a powerful legacy for the local government management profession. Of those of us who worked for her during her tenure in Fremont, there are now five city managers, three assistant city managers as well as countless other professionals making significant contributions in local government.

Jan has a deep and broad range of experience; her resume reflects her willingness to Lean In, to take chances, and to go for jobs that provided challenges and were a stretch. After only a few years as an Administrative Analyst in Grand Rapids out of her master's program, she was offered the opportunity to be the Community Development Director in Adrian, Michigan. Even though it was a stretch, Jan jumped at the opportunity to work in a department and gain experience outside of the manager's office. That experience helped shape Jan's philosophy that department work is an important component of one's experience; a lesson that she has shared with many of those she has mentored. From there, she launched her Manager career serving as Assistant City Manager in Adrian, Deputy City Manager in Grand Rapids and Santa Ana, California, and then on to City Manager in Morgan Hill and Fremont. In addition, Jan has also maintained a strong commitment to the ongoing advancement of public administration generally, as was evidenced by her selection to be a fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration.

Since retirement, Jan continues to advance the profession as an ICMA Senior Advisor, a member of the Legacy Leaders program, and through her work at Management Partners. Jan is a tireless leader and advocate for professional management and is truly deserving of this meaningful award.

Thank you for your consideration!



Jim Becklenberg ('97)



Sherilyn Lombos ('98)



Kelly McAdoo ('00)



Maria Lara ('03)