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YOUNG WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER ANNOUNCES 2019 LOUISE NOUN VISIONARY WOMAN

DES MOINES, IA, February 6, 2019 – The Young Women's Resource Center (YWRC) is pleased to announce Deidre DeJear as its 2019 Louise Noun Visionary Woman Awardee. DeJear will speak and be honored at the 20th Annual YWRC Gala on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at The Ron Pearson Center in West Des Moines. Tickets and information for the YWRC Gala can be found at bidpal.net/ywrcgala2019.

Named for the YWRC's leading founder, the Louise Noun Visionary Woman Award honors advocates, activists, innovators and philanthropists who have made enduring contributions toward empowering girls and women throughout Greater Des Moines.

DeJear is enthusiastic about her community and state. She is engaged in making a difference in the lives of girls and women, collaborative in her pursuit of opportunities that empower individuals of color, committed to organizations and causes that seek to address the needs of underrepresented populations, and truly accomplished in her professional pursuits.

In 2005, DeJear co-founded Back 2 School Iowa, a nonprofit that collaborates with communities and corporations to provide educational resources and inspiration to young people. She also served as an assistant basketball coach for East High School from 2008 to 2014. DeJear was an active member of Mentor Iowa from 2006 to 2016, including a ten year mentorship. She developed and implemented the Financial Capability Network with the United Way of Central Iowa from 2013 to 2017. Throughout the last couple of years, Deidre has developed and implemented the Financial Empowerment Center. This collaborative works with low-income individuals and families, giving them access to mainstream financial systems and products to increase financial management knowledge and skills.

Previously honored Louise Noun Visionary Woman awardees include: Lorraine May, R. Lucia Riddle, Rebecca Shaw M.D., Wanda Everage, Sharon Malheiro, Julie McGuire, Mary Brubaker, Roxanne Conlin, Judge Artis Reis, Jo Oldson, Barbara Mack, Susan Knapp, Judy Bradshaw, Jann Freed, Mary Lynne Jones, Sandy Hatfield Clubb, Connie Boesen and Dr. Deborah Ann Turner.

The legacy of Louise Noun is honored when the work of a nominee supports the empowerment of girls and women. In 1978, a group of visionary women, led by feminist and philanthropist Louise Noun, founded the YWRC. The 70-year-old Louise had already been the president of the League of Women Voters and the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, had founded the Iowa Women's Political Caucus and the Des Moines chapter of the National Organization for Women, and had financed the landmark Supreme Court case *Tinker v. Des Moines*, but she looked at the city and saw an inequality that she was determined to combat.

ABOUT YOUNG WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

The Young Women's Resource Center is a non-profit organization that supports, educates and advocates for young women ages 10-21. The YWRC offers small groups and individual support focused on building self-esteem and healthy relationships, as well as understanding reproductive health. Approximately 1,700 girls and young women are served each year. Young moms receive additional support focused on healthy pregnancy/childbirth and parenting/life skills. The YWRC meets girls where they are and assists them with discovering their abilities and pursuing their dreams. Learn more at www.ywrc.org.

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