



Office of the Executive Dean

To: HER Award Selection Committee
From: Cheryl Peters, PhD
Re: Recommendation for **Kay King – Wise Woman HER Award**
Date: March 20, 2010

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Kay King, Division Chair of Lifestyle Arts and Design Careers at Houston Community College, for *Houston Woman Magazine's* HER Wise Woman Award. Kay has done so much for Houston Community College that one does not know where to begin. I only have to read Houston's local publications to see the impact of her students and program on the local community. It is not an overstatement to say that Kay helped create the local fashion design community/industry. By designing an exemplary curriculum and by inspiring so many graduates to work in the field of fashion design, Houston has prospered economically and artistically. Her graduates have gone head-to-head with students in four-year programs and have won every imaginable award on the national and international scene.

As a working designer herself for the Houston Oilers Cheerleaders, she created costumes in her early years for various groups and clothing manufacturers. Instead of going to New York where she could have undoubtedly made her mark, she chose marriage, motherhood, and creative work in Houston fashion design and entrepreneurship. After a successful business career, she wanted to give back to the community and mentor the next generation of fashion designers by joining the ranks of Houston Community College. Over her long career, she created an exemplary curriculum, stars like Chloe Dao, and hundreds of others who design bridal attire, nurses' uniforms, and clothes for every-day and evening wear. Her students are passionately loyal to her and other fashion faculty, and they stage unique fashion shows that are wildly popular, sometimes using re-cycled materials, wool, mohair, feathers, cotton, etc. If it can be put on a body, Kay's students have tried it.

Additionally, Kay has nurtured and led other departments in their artistic endeavors: interior design, hotel/restaurant management, travel and tourism, and culinary arts. She's brought the same enthusiasm and intelligence to working with faculty and students in these areas as well. Kay is a visionary thinker, and she's always looking to the future. How can these programs expand? What is the future for these fields? How can the faculty and students be supported to be the best that they can be?

So while I have not listed every student Kay has mentored or every award that Kay has won, I can say that her impact on the college, students, and community is profound. Few faculty members over the many long years of the college have given so much, have been so talented, positive, and dedicated as Kay King. Her great spirit of adventure is taking her into a new decade of service. And when many might simply rest on their laurels and retire at the top of their game, Kay still has the fire and energy to inspire a new generation of students. She has my highest recommendation for *Houston Woman Magazine's* HER Wise Woman Award.