

CHRISTINE H. B. GRANT



We celebrate you, Dr. Grant!

We have been able to live our dreams . . . because of you! Thanks for believing in us and for giving us the chance to be “your” coach at the University of Iowa. In our respective eras, each of us has been so proud to say that “Dr. Grant hired me.” You have affected our lives in so many ways. And the truly amazing thing is that we are just three of the thousands of women of all ages whose lives you have touched. When you saw inequality in sports for girls, you became the champion not only for your generation, but for the generations that follow. You have been a true pioneer. Thanks for making such a positive difference for so many of us.

Thank you for your service as coach, athletic director, political activist, and tireless advocate for gender equality. On numerous occasions you have testified before the Congress on behalf of all female athletes to pass a law that, in your words, simply stated, “will treat our daughters and sons in a similar fashion in our educational institutions.” You have earned honors from the Women’s Sports Foundation, the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association, and the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators. You are among the elite who have been awarded the NCAA Gerald R. Ford Award for providing significant leadership as an advocate for intercollegiate athletics throughout your career. Yet with every honor that you received, it was always clear that you never set out to win awards. You set out to win equality.



Though you faced much opposition and many obstacles, you never wavered and you never lost hope. You have been one of the most important catalysts for gender equality. You led a movement that continues to inspire thousands of girls and women. Those of us who have had the pleasure to know you and to have worked alongside you are forever grateful for the opportunity to learn from you firsthand. And the select few of us who were blessed to have been hired by you want you to know that you are truly our motivation, each and every day. It is our hope that we set an example, for our past and current players, of all that you have instilled in us. You taught us how to fight for fairness, champion change, and dare to dream.

Thank you, Dr. Grant, for giving us a reason to celebrate every day— because of the tremendous example you are!

*With gratitude,
Lark Birdsong, C. Vivian Stringer, and Lisa Bluder*

