Rita makes leaders BETTER leaders! She turns on a light bulb so others can shine!

Rita is a vibrant participant in international, statewide, and local endeavors. She is a leader in diverse business communities, having served on the Board for both Allianza, the Latino Chamber of Commerce, and the Leadership Iowa program. Rita actively advocates for female business professionals as a founding sponsor of the LEAP program through the Greater Des Moines Partnership, with the Downtown, Urbandale, and West Des Moines Chambers of Commerce; Rotary International; NEXUS Executive Women's Alliance; and a Board Member of the DMACC Foundation. She is a founding member of FIN Capital, the all-female angel investor network, and serves on the Iowa Women's Foundation finance team. Rita is the only public chairperson of the Governor-appointed Iowa Engineering and Surveyors Examining Board.

A true philanthropist, Rita is the founder of the International Contemplative Garden Association/foundation, the Greater Des Moines Chapter of Rotary International, and founder of a scholarship fund for young professionals.

Rita's areas of passion have continued to "grow." s a national garden speaker, a garden writer contributing to statewide publications, and Master Gardener, she was elected Regional Director of the National Garden Communicators Association in 2016 after having served on the Board of the Friends of the Des Moines Botanical Garden. In 2014 our residential garden was selected to host the Polk County Master Garden tour. National publications have featured stories and stunning photos of our own contemplative garden designed by Rita.

Rita Perea is truly an amazing woman. Her legacy of character, integrity, and advocacy will continue on. She is an inspiration for all who meet her.

Thank you for making the world a better place. A tribute from your loving husband, Ernest M. Perea, M.D.









