Each year, the Pace Setters Executive Award recognizes a business professional who has not only excelled in his or her career but has also made a meaningful difference in the lives of those they influence. At Fisher, we are proud when our students distinguish themselves in business, but we are most proud when they graduate to make significant contributions to society and the world around them.

This year's Executive Award nominee represents these ideals. As a student here on campus, she studied marketing, and credits her former marketing professor William Davidson with helping her to develop a passion for retail.

Now, as an alum, our honoree brings that same passion every day to her role of President and CEO at the national women's apparel company J.Jill. As CEO, she is leading the efforts to reinvigorate J.Jill's marketing strategy from a primarily catalog-based operation to a multifaceted, diversified company.

While she has as a highly distinguished business career, her number one priority is her family. She also gives back and contributes to families in her community through her company's incredible commitment to charitable causes - including the J.Jill Compassion Fund, which was established to help poor and homeless women empower and change their lives.

One of her defining characteristics, according to her staff, is her extraordinary support and compassion for all of her employees. As President and CEO, she has an open-door policy and is especially willing to meet with young employees to discuss their aspirations and career paths.

Fisher students have also been fortunate to share in her passion for guiding and mentoring young lives. Over the years, she has returned to Fisher to generously share her experiences and expertise with our students.

Simply put, she has made a meaningful difference in the practice of business and throughout her community - and that defines a Fisher graduate.