[**http://www.businessrecord.com/Content/Default/Master/Form-Content/2013-Northwestern-Mutual-Forty-under-40-Alumnus-of-the-Year-/-3/-1/8#ixzz2KcTffl60**](http://www.businessrecord.com/Content/Default/Master/Form-Content/2013-Northwestern-Mutual-Forty-under-40-Alumnus-of-the-Year-/-3/-1/8#ixzz2KcTffl60)

**Briefly describe why you feel this person should be considered for Alumnus of the Year:**

Des Moines is fortunate to have professionals who make an incredible impact on our community: Kathryn Kunert is absolutely one of those professionals and she is more than deserving of the Forty Under 40 Alumnus of the Year award.

When you look at Kathryn’s accomplishments, both professional and philanthropic, what’s most impressive isn’t the just the sheer number of committees, boards and organizations that she supports. What stands out most is her deep commitment and dedication to each, driving measurable results through teamwork and relationships. Kathryn’s involvement is rooted in causes and efforts that resonate with the change that she wants to see … in our community, the state of Iowa and throughout the Midwest. So, as the saying goes, Kathryn sets out to *be* that change.

Whether the effort or task at hand is ensuring that economic development in Iowa is continually looking ahead and strengthening, or if it’s related to an organization like the United Way, where Kathryn has been a true champion for 12 years (and counting) to put resources in place to help those who need it —Kathryn makes a difference.

She’s relentless, driven, and incredibly fun to work with. Her smile lights up a room and her work makes an impact. Kathryn doesn’t count her success by numbers or awards. She calculates a job well done by the collective effort of her team, and the impact of their efforts. You might not see Kathryn’s name displayed on a wall, but when you see a thriving community, chances are that Kathryn had a role in it. And she wouldn’t have it any other way.

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Civic and Non Profit:

**Rotary Club of Des Moines:**
Member since 1999
Club President in 2005-2006

**United Way of Central Iowa**
Board member – 2013
Since 2001, Kathryn has run all United Way campaigns for MidAmerican Energy Company — 17 total campaigns across the company covering four different states.

**Character Counts**Board – 2013
Active since 2008 as a volunteer and supporter

**Greater Des Moines Partnership**
Board member and Executive Committee member
Chair of “Choose Des Moines” Committee – Economic Development Committee
Capital Crossroads – Co-chair for the Business Capital and on the Corridor Capital Committee
Overarching Capital Crossroads Strategic Planning Committee
**Professional Developers of Iowa** (statewide organization for economic development professionals)
Board since 2005
President in 2011
Legislative co-chair

**Additional community involvement:**Yankee Doodle Pops Committee – Des Moines Symphony
Greater Des Moines Leadership 2002-2003
ABI – IPAC board
Greater Cedar Valley Alliance – regional economic development group (Board of Directors, 2010)
Iowa City Area Development Group – regional economic development group (Board of Directors, 2008)
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance – large investors council
Regional Opportunities Council (ROC) in Quad Cities

**Past community involvement:**
YESS Board – past member
Variety Board – past member
ABI – past annual conference chair; IPAC board (current)
Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute Board from 2003 – 2006/7
Forty Under 40 – Class of 2003

**Career Accomplishments:**

**MidAmerican Energy Company**

**VP of Business and Community Development (2004 – present)**- Manage team of employees focused on economic development
- All community outreach for MidAmerican Energy Company
- Manage all economic programs – local, regional and state
- Manage over 600 franchises in four states
- All sponsorship and donation outreach coordination and partnership development
- Special projects working alongside senior leadership for company
- Maintain all grassroots outreach specific to MEC legislative
**Director of Community Relations (1999 – 2004)**- Maintained all legislative duties as Legislative Project Coordinator
- Serviced 412 communities in four states

- Responsible for all internal and external communication including employee communication and outreach/coordination with key communities served by MidAmerican Energy Company.

**Legislative Project Coordinator (1996 – 1999)**- Grassroots coordinator on all state and federal issues
- Managed PAC