

January 13th, 2016

Business Record

Attn: Forty Under 40 Alumni of the Year

100 4th St

Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Committee,

In 2012, I began my participation in the West Des Moines Leadership Academy. It was an opportunity to both get some valuable leadership training as well as meet some community leaders. The academy started like many leadership courses I had been through – ice breakers, introductions, outlines, the basics. Then Anthony (Tony) Paustian started his presentation on Personal Leadership in the third month of the program and blew all of my expectations for leadership training out the window.

To say that Dr. Paustian has changed my life is an understatement. He has helped me personally and professionally become the individual I am today. His insights, mentorship, and friendship opened doors and pushed me to achieve goals that I didn't even know I had. Now, if I was the only individual who could make this claim, I could understand not considering him for this prestigious honor. But I'm not. He has helped transform hundreds of lives throughout this community and continues to do so to this day. That is why I truly believe Dr. Anthony Paustian should be the 2016 Forty Under 40 Alumni of the year.

Tony was recognized in the 2003 Forty Under 40 class just after successfully designing and opening the DMACC West Campus in 2001. Since that time his campus has continued to grow and has won numerous awards including being named to *InfoWorld's* 100 most innovative organizations. It has also been featured on *CNN*, *USA Today*, *Wired*, *NY Times*, and *NPR*. Tony's vision and creative efforts have resulted in transforming the campus into the Celebrate! Innovation Exhibition, an Iowa Dept. of Tourism recognized innovation museum which at the same time serves to create an inspiring learning environment for students and staff alike.

Professionally, Tony has been teaching and administrating in higher education for the last 20 years. His dedication to the next generation, and love of innovation, fueled his desire to help inspire both students and the community which lead to the creation of ciWeek (Celebrate! Innovation Week) in 2010. This unique event connects the local community to thought leaders from throughout the world who share their stories and personal achievements. His featured speakers have included two of the Apollo astronauts who have walked on the moon, Steve Wozniak (the co-founder of Apple), Levar Burton (from Star Trek and Reading Rainbow fame), Daymond John (from Shark Tank) and dozens of others including scientists, engineers, innovators and a variety of other successful people from television, movies, and music. He works tirelessly to secure sponsors and raise money so he can offer this "Ted" like experience to his students and the greater community absolutely free of charge. For more information on this event please see the enclosed recent *Business Record* article or go to www.dmac.edu/ciweek.

Personally, he's been even more active helping change the face of both Des Moines and Iowa. He has served on numerous boards, including chairing the West Des Moines Chamber in 2015 and sitting on the Greater Des Moines Partnership board, and works with the West Des Moines Rotary. Somehow he has

also found time to write and publish one of his most acclaimed books, ***Beware the Purple People Eaters: A Personal Look at Leadership***, which covers one of his core beliefs, “In order to effectively lead others, you have to be able to successfully lead yourself.” On top of everything else, he created and oversees the largest 3 on 3 basketball tournament in Central Iowa (which began in 2004). The purpose of this event is to raise money for student scholarships. To date he has raised over \$250,000.

Tony has continued to serve this community that so many of us love to call home. He has provided an opportunity for countless students to receive a higher education in a state of the art building unlike anything else you find in this state which he helped to design and create. He serves these students, and other professionals, by selflessly giving of his time and talents through mentorship opportunities and leadership seminars.

Tony is exactly what you’re looking for in a Forty Under 40 alumni. And while he could have continued just plugging away doing his required job after he received the honor back in 2003, he instead has continued to grow himself and serve this community by providing opportunities to inspire today’s younger generation. Tony makes it his daily mission to ensure that tomorrow will be better than today which is why he should be named the 2016 Forty Under 40 Alumni of the Year. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Danny Beyer
2014 Forty Under 40 Winner
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