Jason Swanson

The Business Record

100 4th St.

Des Moines, IA 50309

Mr. Swanson:

This letter recommends Meghan Malloy as Meredith’s Emerging Woman of Influence for 2019. I have known Meghan for 13 years, in both her capacities as a reporter at the Des Moines Register and now as an attorney. She exemplifies the definition of a young community leader and it is exciting to watch her career start to grow with her recent accomplishments.

Meghan was one of the key players in reintroducing industrial hemp to Iowa after almost 75 years from the last time Iowa’s farmers grew the crop for military supplies during World War II. She assisted with the drafting and led the advocacy for the Iowa Hemp Act (Senate File 599). Gov. Kim Reynolds enacted the bill May 13. Her legal expertise in this subject matter is rare in Iowa, and she will no doubt continue to make great strides as a legal expert on industrial hemp for Iowa farmers and entrepreneurs.

Meghan often jokingly refers to herself as Des Moines’ “unofficial historian” as but her appreciation for the city of Des Moines is quite real, and she enjoys being involved in a community which has enriched her and her family. She previously served on the inaugural Polk County Juvenile Drug Collaboration Board created by Judge Colin Witt, and has volunteered at Justice For Our Neighbors when Iowa was preparing to receive numerous unaccompanied minors seeking asylum.

Currently, Meghan is the president of Junior League of Des Moines (JLDM), a 400-member nonprofit organization focused on training women leaders and volunteerism. Under her leadership in the last 12 months, JLDM members have dedicated 450 volunteer hours in the Des Moines metro, raised $415 for Youth Emergency Services & Shelter, and also raised more than $5,000 to continue the organization’s training and philanthropic programming.

Meghan’s professional and philanthropic successes are grounded in her ability to work with different groups of people who may have different values, agendas, or other beliefs, and help them find common ground to reach a goal. She finds a way to make everyone she meets comfortable and confident in themselves to make the task at hand successful. She is certainly an up-and-coming leader in Des Moines, and has many years of future successes ahead of her.

Best,

Lee Rood, Journalist

The Des Moines Register

400 Locust St.

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