

December 16, 2015

Business Record
CFO Award Nomination Committee
The Depot at 4th - 100 4th Street
Des Moines IA 50309

Re: John P. Nelson, CFO, Ames National Corporation

Dear Committee Members:

I am very pleased to endorse the nomination of John P. Nelson, chief financial officer of Ames National Corporation, for the Deloitte CFO of the Year Award. As a member of the board of directors of Ames National Corporation (ANC), I have closely observed John's work on behalf of ANC. The regulatory environment for bank holding companies, as well as publicly traded companies, such as ANC has become increasingly complex during the past seven years. John has provided outstanding guidance and insight to the board and management at ANC, which is reflected in the consistently strong financial performance the company has enjoyed.

John's advice as CFO of the company always takes into account the constituencies that ANC serves – its shareholders, its employees, and the communities in which it provides banking services. John understands that each of those groups has a large stake in the success of the company. John does more than just “see the numbers”, he really does see the big picture!

I am also aware of John's active participation in the community. John is president of the Gilbert School Board; has been chair of his church council; and has recently organized two non-profit entities that support the mission of his church. John has also spent many hours counseling families who have experienced financial and personal distress. I recently heard of John's involvement with an immigrant family and the assistance he has provided to them as they get settled in Iowa.

I have often heard John say “great things can happen, when no one cares who gets the credit”. John's actions as a CFO and community member reflect that attitude. John is not a “talker” – he is a “doer”.

John Nelson would be a very worthy recipient of the Deloitte CFO of the Year Award.

Sincerely,



David W. Benson

DWB/