



December 18, 2015

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

Dear CFO Award Nomination Committee:

I am pleased to nominate **John Nelson** for the **Deloitte CFO of the Year Award**. I have known and worked with John for seventeen years at Ames National Corporation and have found him to be a man of principle and integrity. Through his actions, he demonstrates high ethical standards and lives by the guiding principal of doing "what's right" for both our clients and shareholders.

As CFO for Ames National Corporation, John is dedicated to delivering transparency and providing shareholders with easy-to-understand communications regarding the financial position of the Company. Scott T. Bauer, President of First National Bank, shared the following perspective about John: "John is the most unselfish person I have ever known. His focus is on the outcome, not who gets the credit and everything he is involved in starts with an attitude of positive outcomes. John is willing to share his time and knowledge with anyone who asks and because of this he has naturally grown into one of the leaders of our organization. I can think of no better example of someone who has achieved success in his profession as a direct result of working hard and having clarity of purpose and direction."

John's emphasis on doing the right thing does not end at the office. John has served on the Gilbert Community Schools Board since 2014. He is passionate about quality, objective and empathic, which makes him a great fit for the school board and a strong leader. He is helping Gilbert Schools implement innovative ways for students to be more engaged in their education. John is also very involved at St. Cecilia Church in Ames. He has used his talents to serve on the Parish Council and Finance Committee. He is currently a parish mentor to individuals seeking advice or council on a variety of topics. He has served as an instructor in youth ministry program for over five years. Most recently he has taken a Sudanese family under his wing. He has helped the family find affordable housing and purchase vehicles. He is been instrumental in getting the family more involved and feeling welcome in the community.

John leads by example and fosters an environment of high ethical standards. Through his day-to-day interactions with his co-workers, he clearly communicates that, by always focusing on doing what is in the best interest of our shareholders, customers and employees, we will be successful as a company and be the type of organization people want to work for and with. I believe his character and leadership qualities represent our company well and are characteristics worthy of the **Deloitte CFO of the Year Award**. I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition than John Nelson.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Pohlman".

Thomas H. Pohlman
President & CEO