I am pleased to nominate Samantha Kampman for the *Business Record* “40 Under 40” Class of 2016. Samantha possesses all of the characteristics that define a rising star – a keen business sense, valuable specialized skills, deep professional experience, and sincere interest and investment in our community.

For the better part of a decade, Samantha has cultivated a reputation as an intelligent, dedicated, creative, and compassionate member of Central Iowa’s political and public affairs landscape. Having directly worked with Samantha, I can attest that this reputation is well deserved, and that she is poised to make a pronounced positive impact on those around her for many years to come.

Over the course of her dynamic career, Samantha has developed skills that position her as one of the region’s premier communicators. She currently serves as the communications coordinator of the Ankeny Community School District. The position requires Samantha to engage students, parents, district leaders, policymakers, the media, and the public at large as an on-the-record spokesperson, speaking with authority on issues ranging from district expansion to education policy and everything in between as part of the district’s administration.

The position is more than a job for Samantha. Civic engagement – especially through activities that benefit students and children – has long been her passion, and drives her to dedicate herself to her work as well as her volunteer activities. She is a leader of “Escape 22,” a church youth group that allows her to directly engage with high school girls to provide positive adult guidance and reinforcement. Her commitment to the community is on frequent display throughout numerous other volunteer activities, from the Young Professionals Connection and Greater Des Moines Partnership to Young Variety of Iowa.

At her prior post at LS2group – where we worked together on many projects – Samantha led complex public affairs campaigns at the center of some of the region’s most prominent policy debates. She ran successful efforts surrounding large-scale infrastructure projects in Iowa and partnered closely with state agencies such as the Iowa Economic Development Authority to build the case for Iowa as an economic power. She managed fundraising and public relations for Governor Branstad’s “Home Base Iowa” program for veterans, as well as national campaigns focused on energy and telecommunications. Whatever the project, Samantha’s leadership, creativity, and competence were consistent and impressive.

As a native Iowan, politics also are close to Samantha’s heart. She was a trusted advisor and campaign staffer to Sen. Joni Ernst during the Senator’s State Senate career, and Samantha remains active in Iowa GOP politics as treasurer of the Polk County Republican Women and a member of the Iowa Caucus Consortium Advisory Committee. She also served as political director for Iowans for Tax Relief.

Samantha is the type of person around whom communities are built. I have every confidence in her abilities and leadership. She will be among those who lead our state into the future and I am proud to nominate her for this honor.

Jeffrey Boeyink

Partner, LS2group

jboeyink@ls2group.com