

To the Selection Committee of *Forty Under 40*:

Please consider this a letter of support for naming **Eric Olmscheid** to the Business Record's 2016 *Forty Under 40*. I am a student at Drake University in Des Moines, a former co-worker of Eric's, and a participant in many of the programs that Eric has lead and/or founded at Des Moines Performing Arts.

It is undeniable that Eric Olmscheid has made a huge impact on the culture and arts community of Des Moines as the Director of Programming and Education at Des Moines Performing Arts. Eric came to Des Moines Performing Arts from Minnesota in 2008. Since then he has launched four new performing arts series, expanded education and community engagement programs to engage more than 65,000 patrons annually, and lead the team that launched the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards in 2013.

The Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards program celebrates the accomplishments of high school musical theater programs, highlights the importance of arts education, and provides constructive feedback that aims to strengthen future work. I was a participant of the program in 2013 and 2014, where I observed and witnessed first hand the efficiency with which Eric leads his team.

In the fall of 2014, I was enrolled in a program at Waukee High School that allows seniors to explore potential careers through internships. I was lucky enough to be the Education Intern at Des Moines Performing Arts, where Eric was one of my two direct mentors/supervisors. He provided me with substantial feedback that helped me grow as a student, employee, and community member.

Working with Eric for nine months, I observed his outstanding ability to form connections and network with community members, ranging from elementary students to notable educators and donors. Eric works tirelessly to provide meaningful arts experiences to the Des Moines community and is always looking for ways to improve those experiences. Whether he is programming a show direct from Broadway or a show for first-graders, Eric operates with that same level of detail, vision, and passion.

For these reasons and more, I believe Eric would be an extraordinary member of the Business Record's 2016 *Forty Under 40*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevor Wiley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Trevor" and last name "Wiley" clearly distinguishable.

Trevor Wiley

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