



Terry E. Branstad  
GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Kim Reynolds  
LT. GOVERNOR

January 14, 2016

Iowa Business Record  
Forty Under 40 Selection Panel  
100 4th Street  
Des Moines IA 50309

Dear Business Record Forty Under 40 Selection Panel,

I am writing to express my strong support for Catherine Swoboda of the World Food Prize Foundation to be honored as a member of the Business Record's 2016 Forty Under 40. I have come to know Catherine through her service on the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, which I co-chair. I can personally attest to the exceptional leadership she is providing to inspire the next generation of young Iowans to pursue education and careers in science, agriculture and technology.

Catherine deeply impresses me with her energy, interpersonal skills and genuine commitment to supporting our mission to improve student interest and achievement in STEM. For example, when the Council first convened, Catherine dedicated herself to serving on the subcommittees that helped deliver high-quality STEM education programs to students and expand public awareness about STEM. She fully engaged the World Food Prize Foundation and its staff in outreach efforts of the STEM Council through participation in STEM Day at the Capitol, STEM Day at the Iowa State Fair, and by helping to create the World Food Prize Iowa Youth Institute at Iowa State University.

Without doubt, Catherine's most impressive accomplishment is the critical role she played in starting the innovative Iowa Youth Institute. Within eight months of joining the World Food Prize Foundation, Catherine launched the inaugural Institute, which engages students at the cutting-edge of research and science in a global context. Working closely with ISU, the state of Iowa, and educators, she recruited 250 Iowa high school students and teachers to explore scientific issues concerning global food security and agriculture with academic, research and industry experts, state and community leaders, and business executives. Over the next two years, she nearly doubled the number of students and schools.

In her new role as World Food Prize planning director, Catherine shaped the structure of the 2015 Borlaug Dialogue Symposium, which brought executives of leading food, agribusiness and technology companies to Des Moines. I know this firsthand from participating on a panel on girls and women in STEM that included representatives from Google, Starbucks and Monsanto. It was a powerful discussion.

Honoring Catherine with Forty Under 40 recognition would be a testament to the outstanding work she has done, and a demonstration of the transformative impact our state and the central Iowa community have in preparing young people for a competitive, global economy through educational STEM programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Reynolds".

Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor of Iowa