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January 14, 2016

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn  
President  
World Food Prize Foundation  
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Ambassador Quinn

It is our sincere pleasure to provide a letter of support for the nomination of **Ms. Catherine Swoboda for the Des Moines Business Record Forty Under 40** recognition. We have followed Catherine's progress from her debut as a World Food Prize high school intern working in Brazil, to her success as an undergraduate student in our college, to her excellence as a graduate student in Agronomy at ISU, to her current work in providing STEM opportunities for Iowa high school students through the World Food Prize youth programs and finally to her current role as Director of Planning at the World Food Prize. We were pleased to be asked to write this letter, specifically addressing her commitment to public service, STEM education and her success in representing Des Moines and Iowa on the world stage.

Catherine has so many amazing qualities. She has a passion for science, public education and fighting world hunger. She is remarkably global in her perspective. She combines her tremendous positive energy with her incredible work ethic to serve the public. She is inspired by challenges. She is an unstoppable force for good in Iowa and beyond. And we could say many more wonderful things about Catherine but let us focus on a specific example that really illustrates the impact of Catherine's service and leadership.

She found the perfect place to put her passions to work at the World Food Prize Foundation, initially as the Director of Iowa and Midwest Education Programs. She worked intensively and successfully to launch the first ever World Food Prize Iowa Youth Institute patterned after the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute. This World Food Prize event, held at ISU, brought together high school students and teachers from every corner of Iowa to learn about and deliberate on the role of science in solving the world food security challenges of today and tomorrow. In close collaboration with ISU she arranged an event that involved the Governor, Lt. Governor, the President of Pioneer Hi-Bred, the President of ISU, Iowa business leaders, as well as deans, vice presidents, students and faculty. Iowa high school students left with inspiration, a clear path to solving hunger issues, and a role model in Catherine Swoboda. Student evaluations have confirmed the tremendous impact of this event. This has become one of the most unique initiatives in the state encouraging high school students, particularly young women, to pursue education and careers in agricultural science.

Catherine is clearly disturbed by the inequality she sees around us and doesn't hesitate to work

toward a solution in a positive but persistent manner. She is extremely committed to solving social problems in developing countries and her focus on developing the next generation of STEM equipped hunger fighters is fine example of how she puts her values into action.

Catherine is most comfortable when she is engaged in public service. And she has always been willing to provide the enthusiasm and leadership needed to motivate others to lend a helping hand. Whether she is working in the Midwest or abroad Catherine has been a hugely effective representative of Des Moines, the World Food Prize and Iowa State University.

Catherine's service on the Governor's STEM Advisory Council and her leadership in establishing the World Food Prize Iowa Youth Institute in collaboration with Iowa State make her uniquely qualified for the Des Moines Business Record Forty Under 40 recognition.

Catherine is a truly remarkable person and a leader admired by so many. Her daily representation of Des Moines, the World Food Prize and the state of Iowa in interactions with political leaders and scientists from around the world is a tremendous asset working in support of the global reputation of Des Moines. We can think of no other professional under 40 who invests as much heart and soul into the work of making the world a better place.

Sincerely,



Wendy Wintersteen  
Dean



David Acker  
Associate Dean