



OUR MISSION:

THE SCIENCE CENTER OF IOWA
ENGAGES AND INSPIRES IOWANS
ALONG THEIR JOURNEY OF
LIFELONG SCIENCE LEARNING.

January 9, 2017

Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee:

I am honored to know Judy Downs and to recommend her for the next Forty Under 40 class. She is intelligent, determined and driven to make Des Moines a better place, and she has made a tangible impact on every organization she has been involved with.

As a colleague at the Science Center of Iowa, Judy was an invaluable resource to myself and others, having more than six years of experience in a variety of roles across the organization. This insight provided her a unique ability to think globally and make strategic decisions regarding programs, events and community partnerships, including the first-ever Des Moines Mini Maker Faire, which involved collaboration with more than 40 community partners as well as the global Maker Faire network.

At the Living History Farms, Judy quickly established herself as a leader and was recognized with a promotion to Director of Events and Sales within six months of her hire. She grew the events program and was instrumental in coordinating large-scale rental events, including political events for presidential candidates during one of the most intense political seasons in recent memory.

In her new role with the Iowa Environmental Council, Judy is demonstrating her versatility by stepping outside the museum world and into a development role. Her impact is already apparent, as she successfully spearheaded a #GivingTuesday campaign that reached a previously untapped audience: young professionals.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Judy is an exceptional community leader, serving on the boards of the Roosevelt High School Foundation and the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network. She is a model of civic engagement, volunteering as a county delegate in the 2016 Iowa Caucuses. And she is a dedicated wife and mother, always making time for her husband Andrew and son Charlie.

For these reasons and more, I am delighted to give my recommendation, which could help her be recognized for her contributions as a leader in greater Des Moines.

Judy one of the most genuine, well-rounded people I know, and her entire life has been focused on serving the community. She has a bright future ahead of her. Thank you for considering her for the next Forty Under 40 class.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emilee Richardson".

Emilee Richardson
Director of Marketing & Public Relations
Science Center of Iowa & Blank IMAX Dome Theater
Forty Under 40 Class of 2015