January 12, 2017

Dear *Business Record* friends,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Kyle Oppenhuizen for the *Business Record*’s Forty Under 40 Award.

I have known Kyle now for a number of years, first through his reputation in the Des Moines community as a respected reporter for the *Business Record*, and secondly – and most comprehensively – through his role as Communications Manager at the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

Kyle has established himself as a young professional who thoroughly exemplifies servant leadership. He gently and firmly presents a perspective that is rooted in thoughtful context, and he is genuinely respected by those within and outside of our organization. Kyle has served as a key content creator for The Partnership, oftentimes shaping and molding the message the organization uses to drive the region forward in meaningful ways. In fact, in looking at many of the region’s successes in the past year, from the Iowa Events Center Hotel Groundbreaking, to the launch of the Republic of the Consulate of Kosovo, to the Iowa Caucuses – when all eyes were on Iowa and Central Iowa – Kyle was at the forefront of crafting our region’s public relations message to local, regional, national and even international audiences.

Kyle is a remarkable talent, and moreover, he is a remarkable colleague. He is kindhearted, inclusive and trustworthy. He exemplifies the utmost qualities of character and ethics. We need more Kyles in the world. Our region is better in tangible ways because he is an active and engaged member of it.

Sincerely,

Sophia S. Ahmad  
Vice President of Public Relations  
Member, *Business Record*’s Forty Under 40, Class of 2016