

January 10, 2017

To the Selection Committee of Forty Under 40 Award,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Azure Christensen for the Business Record's Forty Under 40 Award. Azure is an excellent candidate for your consideration. She's a dedicated, talented, highly engaged individual who goes above and beyond what is expected.

I first met Azure in 2013 when I was selected from outside the university to be the new Raisbeck Endowed Dean of the Iowa State University College of Business. Even though Azure joined the college just days before my arrival, she played an integral role in introducing me to the college's alumni and many supporters, ensuring my early success as a new Dean.

Azure was instrumental in helping us enhance the college's fundraising efforts. The year before Azure's arrival, the college secured about \$2 million in combined gifts and commitments. Over the course of the next two years, under Azure's direction, we increased our fundraising efforts to \$7 million in fiscal year 2015, and almost \$9 million in fiscal year 2016. Her time here at the college had a significant impact on our fundraising efforts, for which I am grateful.

Not only does Azure excel in her fundraising skills, she is a dedicated member of her community. She was born and raised in the Des Moines area, attending West Des Moines schools and Valley High School. She earned a liberal studies degree from Iowa State University and has worked in nonprofit leadership and development in Des Moines for the past 15 years, including Planned Parenthood, Blank Park Zoo, the Iowa State Foundation, and Children's Cancer Connection.

There are many ways she gives back to her community. Many of her efforts are connected with her children's activities, including the Boy Scouts and Johnston Schools. She is a member of the Can Do Cancer board, a wonderful organization helping central Iowans cope with the life challenges associated with breast cancer. She participates in a number of professional associations and considers herself to be a philanthropist. She was recently featured in *The Des Moines Register* (July 13, 2016), where she said she wants to feel passion, show compassion and help make a difference. For Azure, philanthropy is a way of life, a continuous desire to use her time, talent and treasure to make the world a better place.

She has found a career that allows her the privilege of connecting more people to a philanthropist's way of life.

I highly recommend Azure Christensen for the Forty Under 40 Award.

Thank you for your consideration,



David Spalding
Raisbeck Endowed Dean