

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

4-H Youth Development
Extension 4-H Youth Building
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to recommend Emma Christianson for one of the Des Moines Business Record's 40 Under 40 Awards. I have known Emma since she was in high school and have seen her embody the ideas of servant leadership throughout her high school, college and professional work. She would be an excellent representative of this award.

Emma was a 4-Her in her youth and rose to the level of serving on the Iowa state 4-H council during her senior year. As advisor to this group, I worked with Emma and the group of 40 high school student leaders from across Iowa. Emma demonstrated as a senior in high school that she was able to work well with others, was interested in learning from others, and cared about serving others. Throughout her college career, she continued to be involved in campus student organizations and volunteer opportunities. She also made a point of continuing to give back to the program that had impacted her in her youth. Emma served on state 4-H recognition review committees as a volunteer and also returned home to serve her local community as well.

Since becoming a professional in Des Moines, Emma has begun making a difference in her new home community. But, she also continues to have a heart for and find time to serve the Iowa 4-H program. Emma has served as a volunteer representative on an advisory group that I chair to evaluate and improve our current statewide recognition program and 4-H citizenship and leadership opportunities. This has involved teleconferences, face-to-face meetings, and work outside of the meeting time. Emma has brought incredible insight because of the professional work she does. She has helped us to consider limitations of some of the potential audiences we'd like to better engage in our programming. Emma's passion and advocacy for positive youth development and for improving the lives of all youth comes through, not just in her professional work, but also in her volunteer efforts.

Emma Christianson represents her work with the Iowa Homeless Youth Centers with professionalism and class. In addition, she demonstrates that she does this work, not just because it's a job, but because it's a passion and part of her life. She works tirelessly in her personal and professional time to advocate and be a champion for positive youth development for all youth in Iowa. She most certainly is making a difference in the lives of those she touches, and especially in the field of youth work. I enthusiastically recommend Emma for this award and would be glad to answer any questions in regard to her volunteer work with the Iowa 4-H program.

Sincerely,



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