January 3, 2014

Attn: Des Moines Business Record Forty Under 40

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing this letter to express my support for Justine Peebles in her nomination for the Des Moines Business Record’s Forty Under 40. I enjoyed working with Justine at Great Western Bank and am happy and honored to be able to provide this recommendation. I have great respect for her as an individual and as a professional and am confident that she is well deserving of this award.

I had the pleasure of working directly with Justine while she was at Great Western Bank and her tremendous abilities and attitude never ceased to amaze me. Justine was a Branch Manager when we met and I was the Vice President of our Marketing Department in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Though I did not supervise Justine, I worked closely with her on several projects and issues closely, so I fully understand her abilities. Even with being four hours away from the corporate office, everyone at headquarters knew and loved Justine’s outgoing and vibrant personality.

Justine’s incredible adaptability with current and potential customers and co-workers lead her to excel at the Bank. Her great connection with the customers and relentless work ethic made her customers and co-workers feel comfortable with her from the start. Co-workers would go to Justine for issues that didn’t relate to her and she was able and willing to help them. She was a tremendous leader for the bank. While working at Great Western Bank, Justine was awarded the MAKING LIFE GREAT award. This award was voted on by her peers and the executive management of the bank. Though only allowed to receive it 1x per year, Justine’s name was in the hat each and every quarter. She by far exceeded any other nominees.

In addition to having firsthand knowledge of Justine’s work ethic and abilities, I am also familiar with her education and career goals, and know just how much receiving this award would mean to her. I cannot think of anyone more deserving and wholeheartedly support her application. She is smart beyond her years and truly loves the community she lives in. I think that her dedication and bravery shows even outside of her volunteer work because she ran for the Ankeny School Board in the 2013 race. Even though she lost, she has joined committees and is active in the Ankeny Parents’ Association so she can keep up on the issues and run again for a win in 2015.

I am confident that you will be just as impressed with her as I have been and still am, and urge you to consider her for this award. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information. You may reach me at 605.376.6368 or lisa.ann.paulson@gmail.com

Regards,

*Lisa*

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