**Forty under 40 nomination form**

College(s) attended and Degree(s) earned

University of Oklahoma

Economic Development Institute (EDI)

2006 – 2008

University of Iowa

M.A., Urban & Regional Planning

Concentrations: Economic Development & Transportation

2002 – 2004

Loras College

B.A., Political Science

1995 – 1999

Business accomplishments (job responsibilities, special projects, business related affiliations, etc

My current professional position is as Executive Director of the Warren County Economic Development Corporation. Since arriving in Warren County in April 2011 the organization has achieved the following:

* The best “Overall Program” award from Governor Terry Branstad and the Professional Developers of Iowa for taking care of existing businesses through Warren County’s Business Retention & Expansion program.
* The creation, launch and implementation of an ambitious $2 million economic development plan for Warren County with a branding theme called GroWARRENow.
* A revenue increase of 40 percent due to a boost in both public and private sector investment.
* The attraction of a new warehouse and distribution business to Warren County with a capital investment of $2.5 million and 15 new employees (C&L Companies, Urbandale).
* The expansion of a new food manufacturing business (Loffredo Fresh Produce, Des Moines) in Norwalk with 160 employees, when there are less than 600 manufacturing jobs in the county.
* A new Fareway store to Carlisle, which is the largest community in Iowa without a grocery store.
* The establishment of Warren County first countywide revolving loan fund ($100,000), offering an additional source of finance capital for small business growth.
* Sponsored a small business workshop called “Learn|Grow|Succeed” with over 40 small businesses in Warren County looking to receive mentoring or guidance.
* Co-Sponsored the Des Moines Business Record’s ‘Commercial Real Estate Forum’ held in Norwalk, bringing this event to Warren County for the first time.
* Partnered with the Indianola Municipal Utilities to bring recognition to Indianola as Iowa’s first “Connected Community” for internet access, adoption, and speed.
* Handled media inquiries and interviews during a campaign for a new casino in 2013.

My previous position was as Executive Director of the Midwest Partnership Development Corporation, a quad-county economic development organization servicing Adair, Audubon, Greene and Guthrie counties in west-central Iowa. I held that position from May 2006 to April 2011. A few of the accomplishments include:

* Directed economic development program for quad-county regional group with 27 communities and 35,000 people in west central Iowa.
* Executed an economic development plan which surpassed established goals for businesses attracted, jobs added, and tax base growth in the first full year.
* Managed staff, engaged and recruited investors, and reported to a 30-member board.
* Led organization out of $85,000 indebtedness and enhanced revenues by 53 percent.
* Facilitated branding strategy for quad county area with 80 individual stakeholders, creating new website, message, logo, and public relations plan.
* Spearheaded a Business Retention & Expansion contact program with regular visits to 63 primary companies and over 170 follow-ups by staff.

Civic Leadership (board involvement, etc)

Mid-Iowa Development Fund

Board of Directors

January 2013 – Present ,

Provides financing for new and expanding businesses in Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story, and Warren Counties that are unable to secure conventional financing. MIDF funds can be used for a variety of activities, including working capital, fixed assets, and construction.

Member

Central Iowa Tourism

Member

April 2012 – Present

Mid-Iowa Small Business Development Center

Advisory Board Member

January 2012 – Present

Iowa Commercial Real Estate Association (ICREA)

Member

November 2011 – Present

Iowa Commercial Real Estate Association is a state-wide association of professionals engaged in many areas of the commercial real estate industry.

International Economic Development Council

Member

May 2011 – Present

Greater Des Moines Regional Economic Development Board

Board Member

April 2011 – Present

Represent Warren County to provide advisory support to the Greater Des Moines Partnership's economic development program.

Purple Heart Highway

Partner

April 2011 – Present

Advocate for improvements along the Greater Des Moines Metro's southern four-lane beltway.

Warren County Leadership Institute

Administrator

April 2011 – Present

The Warren County Leadership Institute, formed in 1993, is affiliated with the Warren County Economic Development Corporation (WCEDC) and is an integral part of fulfilling WCEDC's mission. The Institute's primary objective is to train and inform leaders.

Mid-America Economic Development Council

Member

January 2010 – Present

Professional Developers of Iowa

January 2004 – Present

Support the advancements of the economic development profession in the state of Iowa.

Young Professionals Connection

Member

October 2011 – October 2013

Social Capital Committee (Capital Crossroads Initiative)

Member

September 2011 – September 2013

Find ways to create synergies among the many leadership programs in the Greater Des Moines Metro area.

Professional Developers of Iowa

Past President

Provides leadership to statewide association of economic developers with over 320 members.

Iowa Association of Business & Industry

Member

July 2013 – Present

Central Iowa Workforce Investment Board

Board Member

February 2013

Des Moines Metro Opera, Inc.

Guild Member – Indianola Chapter

Volunteer organization which serves as a link between the Des Moines Metro Opera and the local community.

Carlisle Chamber of Commerce (Member)

Indianola Chamber of Commerce (Member)

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce (Member)

Achievements, Awards, Special Recognitions

The best “Overall Program” award from Governor Terry Branstad and the Professional Developers of Iowa for taking care of existing businesses through Warren County’s Business Retention & Expansion program.

Featured as “Agent of Change” in the Ottumwa Courier’s “Progress Edition - 2006”

Graduated from Business, Retention & Expansion International Course (BREI) with Project Coordinator designation (2009)

Heartland Economic Development; Completed Basic Course

Graduate of the Economic Development Institute, 2008

In 2011, While the Executive Director of the Midwest Partnership Development Corporation, a quad-county economic development organization in west central Iowa, the organization was the recipient of the coveted "Silver Shovel" recognition, an honor given by Iowa Area Development Group to an outstanding statewide economic development partner.