

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Business Record's Forty Under 40 Selection Committee  The Depot at Fourth  100 4th Street  Des Moines, Iowa 50309 | Sondra Ashmore, Ph.D.  3480 109th Street  Urbandale, Iowa 50322 |

December 22, 2017

Dear 2018 Forty Under 40 Selection Committee:

It is my great pleasure to nominate Patricia Izbicki for the Business Record’s Forty Under 40 Class of 2018. I met Patricia at the Science Center of Iowa’s Meals with Mentors dinner. She was serving as a mentor to middle school and high school students. I could tell when I met Patricia that there was something special about her. She was curious, passionate, intelligent, kind, and committed to empowering others through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) initiatives.

When Patricia told me that she was studying neuroscience and was committed to help people with neurological conditions, it filled me with the kind of hope that the parent of a child born with a brain condition can only dream of. My son was born with Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum, a condition that has no cure currently, but can be helped with educational intervention and therapies. He cries and gets very frustrated because he cannot do things other kids can do; leaving me often feeling powerless to help him. Talking to Patricia about her ideas on how her research can help people like him and others with related conditions such as Parkinson’s and ADHD, reminds me that there are people dedicated to finding treatments that will help them prosper despite their challenges.

One thing I admire most about Patricia is how generously she shares her gifts with others in our community, a theme you will read about consistently in her recommendation letters. She shares her musical talents in central Iowa by performing in local festivals and playing the piano at her church. She started her own piano studio, developed a pre-collegiate course for Talented and Gifted entitled *Neuroscience of Music*, and spearheaded the community piano project in Ames. From a STEAM perspective, she has created partnerships between Iowa State and the Science Center of Iowa, established a neuroscience education program called *Brain Day*, and also founded the Neuroscience Graduate Learning Community. It comes as no surprise that she was recently honored by the Technology Association of Iowa’s Women of Innovation award for Collegian Innovation and Leadership.

As a member of the Business Record’s 2012 Forty Under 40 class, I can honestly say that I see many of the same traits in Patricia that I saw in many of the other members of my class: leadership, initiative, grit, and a desire to make our community a better place for all. I couldn’t be more honored to nominate such a deserving candidate as Patricia Izbicki for the Business Record’s 2018 Forty Under 40 class.

Thank you for all you do to support and recognize the great people making a difference in our community.

Sincerely,



Sondra Ashmore, Ph.D.

Forty Under 40 Class of 2012