



**GREATER DES MOINES
PARTNERSHIP**

700 Locust St., Ste. 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50309 | USA
p: (515) 286-4950
DSMpartnership.com

January 3, 2018

Business Publications Corp.
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Attn: Forty Under 40 Selection Committee

RE: Cory Sharp Nomination

I am writing in support of Cory Sharp for consideration as a Forty Under 40 2018 award recipient.

Over the past several years I have had the privilege to work with Cory as he has taken numerous leadership positions with our Young Professionals Connection. Shortly after joining YPC, Cory stepped up to take a committee chair position where he was quickly recognized as a leader who stands by his commitments and works hard to engage everyone in the mission. It was these attributes that led his peers to elect him into the rotation of President, the position he held in 2016.

A couple of key YPC successes attributable to Cory during his various leadership roles are as follows. 1) As a participant in Golden Circle Games for many years, Cory saw the teambuilding aspect of the Games dwindling. He wanted to see the true mission of the Games rejuvenated so he volunteered to chair the event. Under his leadership he made numerous changes to the event that renewed the emphasis on teambuilding and networking resulting in a safer, more professional and meaningful experience for participants. 2) A key priority of Cory's was to provide more ways for YP's to share their ideas and have a voice. To accomplish this goal, he secured an ongoing spot for YPC leaders to share their opinions in the Register's "Better Iowa" editorial series. 3) While some previous presidents measured success in the number of members, Cory believed that the quality of engaged members was more important than quantity. To encourage involvement by members in YPC and other community volunteer opportunities, Cory initiated a campaign to encourage companies to offer Vacation Time Off (VTO) thereby supporting YP's volunteerism. Additionally, he began the planning for a YPC led community-wide day of volunteering. The first event occurred this October and is anticipated to occur annually.

In addition to YPC, Cory serves on the Partnership's Transit Future Work Group and has been very instrumental in engaging other young professionals in the issue of transportation. He also participated in the Transit Funding Study workshops this year, representing YPC and the YP community.

Cory has a strong understanding of people, business, and community and is committed to making greater Des Moines a career and lifestyle destination for young professionals. He is the epitome of the type of leader we need in our region today and for the future. Thank you for your consideration of Cory as a 2018 honoree.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Bontrager
Executive Vice President