Dear Business Record’s Forty under 40 Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Dylan DeClerck, the Executive Director of Opportunity on Deck, for the Business Record’s Forty under 40 recognition this year. The organization he founded and has led for the past six years, Opportunity on Deck, provides free sports leagues and programs, including dance, basketball, soccer, baseball and more for children who have never had the chance to play before. Dylan more than any other young professional I know, is making a huge difference in the lives of thousands of Central Iowa youth in low-income communities, including Des Moines, Clive, Ankeny and West Des Moines.

From my own experience working alongside Dylan on his organization’s board of directors and as a proud volunteer at many of their programs, I can tell you that Dylan is one of the most passionate and compassionate people, highly motivated to help as many children as possible and when he commits to a goal professionally, civically or personally there is nothing that will prevent him from achieving it. I also have noticed that he is mature beyond his years and has the unique vision to introduce new programs including Opportunity on Deck’s holiday MVP packages, volunteer recognition program, operation closed toe shoe and more to provide much more than athletic lessons to the children he coaches.

What impresses me the most about Dylan is that he cares so much for youth development through Opportunity on Deck, but also balances playing professional ultimate Frisbee for the Minnesota Wind Chill, taking MBA classes at the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business and volunteering for a number of other organizations in our community. In fact, I’m not sure Dylan knows how to turn down a chance to help others.

Thank you for your consideration. I know that choosing Dylan DeClerck for your award would make the Business Record and so many people in our community proud!

William (Coleby) Hanisch