

Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee,

I am delighted to recommend Nick Hansen for the 2018 Forty Under 40 class. I met Nick shortly after I arrived in Des Moines three years ago and I connect with him often, both professionally and socially.

Nick has risen quickly in the local office of the DLR Group, an international architectural firm with over 25 offices worldwide. He heads up business development for the eastern US division of the higher education sector of the firm. He also leads all business development activities in Iowa, Nebraska, and the Dakotas. These activities put Nick on the road many days a month, but he still finds time to be very active in our local community. He is constantly working to make Des Moines a better place for all of us.

One particularly interesting and valuable way that he helps our community is through his advocacy and involvement in the APEX program in the Waukee schools. APEX embeds high school classes in companies for a semester and the students and their teacher meet at those companies and do projects for them and other companies in that business sector. Nick has been instrumental in getting classes placed at his DLR office and in helping mentor the students as they go about their projects. Because of this work, he has been appointed to the APEX Business Partner Advisory Committee. I serve on the overall APEX board and I have heard the APEX staff talk often about their productive relationship with DLR and the key role Nick has played in making it happen.

Nick also serves the community and the state in a number of other ways. He works with the University of Iowa STEM innovator program as an advisor, he is a project mentor of UI engineering students, he is on a community engagement committee at DMACC, and he was a 2017 member of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute.

Let me give you one more example of his commitment to our community. I am on the Cystic Fibrosis Iowa board and we started a program last year called the New Leaders of Des Moines. We selected 20 young Des Moines professionals as new leaders and asked them to commit to raising funds for our cause. I nominated Nick and he immediately set to work to learn about CF and to raise funds to help us find a cure. Over the next several months, he raised thousands of dollars and advocated tirelessly for our organization and our work.

I hope that you will give Nick serious consideration for membership in the 2018 Forty Under 40 class. To my mind, he has all of qualities that make for a distinguished member. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can provide you with more information.

Best,

Tom Rice  
University of Iowa  
Director, Des Moines Programs

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