

**OUR MISSION:**

THE SCIENCE CENTER OF IOWA  
ENGAGES AND INSPIRES IOWANS  
ALONG THEIR JOURNEY OF  
LIFELONG SCIENCE LEARNING.

January 5, 2018

**Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee:**

When I think of the characteristics that define a Forty Under 40, I think of leadership, passion and commitment to the community. When I think of those characteristics, I think of Judy Downs.

Judy is committed to the causes she cares about, passionate about servant leadership and determined to make Des Moines a better place through her professional and personal endeavors. She is one of the most genuine, well-rounded people I know, and her entire life has been focused on serving the community.

I am honored to know Judy and to recommend her for the Forty Under 40 class of 2018.

**Professional Accomplishments**

As a colleague at the Science Center of Iowa, Judy was an invaluable resource to myself and others, with experience in a variety of roles across the organization. This insight provided her a unique ability to think globally and make strategic decisions regarding programs, events and community partnerships.

At the Living History Farms, she quickly established herself as a leader and was recognized with a promotion to Director of Events and Sales within six months of her hire. She grew the events program and was instrumental in coordinating large-scale rentals, including political events for presidential candidates during the 2016 election.

In her current role with the Iowa Environmental Council, Judy is demonstrating her versatility by stepping outside the museum world and into a development role. Her skills and insights will no doubt take her far.

**Community and Civic Involvement**

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Judy is an exceptional community leader, serving on the boards of the Roosevelt High School Foundation and the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network. In 2017, she was elected to the Urbandale School Board, where she champions a public education environment that is student-focused and teacher-friendly. No matter what she does, Judy does it with heart and with a deep sense of purpose.

Finally yet importantly, she is a dedicated wife and mother, always prioritizing her husband Andrew and two-year-old son Charlie. They are her foundation and her pride and joy.

For these reasons and more, I am delighted to give my recommendation for Judy Downs, a respected peer and cherished friend. Thank you for considering her for the next Forty Under 40 class.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Emilee Richardson'.

Emilee Richardson  
Director of Marketing & Public Relations  
Science Center of Iowa & Blank IMAX Dome Theater  
*Forty Under 40 Class of 2015*