

Greg Padget
Beginning Farmers Manager for Practical Farmers of Iowa
Newton, Iowa

January 8, 2018

Dear 40 Under Forty Selection Committee,

I am pleased to recommend Aubrey Alvarez as a nominee of Forty Under 40. I have had the pleasure of working with Aubrey through her work at Eat Greater Des Moines for the last five years. Back in 2013 I was in charge of a committee for Urban Ambassadors, that was organizing a urban farm crawl to local food producing sites in Des Moines. This is when I discovered Aubrey's skill at partnering. She helped us find sites to host this event and even took her Saturday off to hit the crawl herself. Over the years I have experienced numerous partnerships that Aubrey has helped form and continue to this day.

Through this experience I started to volunteer with Aubrey to help elevate Eat Greater Des Moines. Seeing Aubrey's ability to bring together community partners in increasing food access across our community showed her leadership abilities. In 2014 when she asked me to be part of the newly formed board of directors for Eat Greater Des Moines, it was an easy response. Serving as board President from 2014-2017 I was able to work side by side with Aubrey and experience her successes and challenges.

Aubrey's attitude is one to "get it done"; she doesn't let obstacles get in her way of making projects happen. When Eat Greater Des Moines began the pursuit of adding a robotic retail location to provide fresh food access to a food desert in Des Moines, Aubrey hit many road blocks. She didn't let this barriers stop her. When she didn't know how to navigate the planning and zoning process, she found people to help her do so. Even when it was apparent that this project was not going to happen in Des Moines, she still didn't stop. To this day Aubrey is sharing the story of this process with other communities and helping them overcome the barriers she faced.

I would highly recommend Aubrey receive a spot on this year's Forty Under 40. I think you will find many others in the community that would agree with me in saying she is a great partner, devoted community member and a cherished friend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Padget". The signature is stylized with a large, cursive "G" and a more formal "Padget".

Greg Padget