



## COUNTY OF POLK Board of Supervisors

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December 9, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, it is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation to nominate Chris Connolly for the Business Record Forty Under 40 award.

One of the best decisions Polk County has made was partnering with Global Spectrum to manage the Iowa Events Center. Chris has been an integral part of the continued success of the Iowa Events Center due to his vast knowledge and experience in the event and entertainment industry.

Throughout his tenure, Chris leads his organization to bring in top quality acts, sports and conventions. Due to his hard work and dedication he is a respected leader within our community. The relationships he has built with other organizations is invaluable to Polk County and continues to grow the domain of the Iowa Events Center.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to further discuss why the Polk County Board of Supervisors believes Chris Connolly is a deserving candidate for this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Tom Hockensmith  
Chair, Polk County Board of Supervisors

**GREATER DES MOINES CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU**  
**THE PARENT ORGANIZATION OF THE DES MOINES AREA SPORTS COMMISSION**

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January 7, 2014

Dear Forty Under 40 Committee:

It is a pleasure to share my support for Chris Connolly as a candidate for the *Des Moines Business Record's* Forty Under 40 Award.

Chris has been an advocate for our city since he was named General Manager of Global Spectrum's Iowa Events Center and moved here in 2011. Chris oversees all aspects of bookings, ticket sales and operations at Wells Fargo Arena, Hy-Vee Hall and Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center at Veterans Memorial. He was the one that worked tirelessly with the Polk County Board of Supervisors to ensure the renovated Veterans Memorial space met the city's needs. He still works tirelessly to ensure the facility is booked and generating revenue for our city.

As an avid sports fan, Chris understands the value of offering good sports events and offerings in our city, so he worked with a team of others to bring new the Iowa Wild into Des Moines. He's also a key reason the 2013 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships and 2012 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Regionals were both so successful. It is just another reason we're pleased Chris sits on our Des Moines Area Sports Commission Board.

Chris leads fearlessly, yet humbly. He isn't afraid to confront issues or speak up and offer his opinion. He has a talent of looking at situations, both problems and opportunities, from various perspectives while anticipating the next move by others before the move has been made.

We're lucky to have Chris in our community, selling our city as a viable meeting destination, as well as a top stop in the Midwest for touring groups and concerts.

I believe Chris Connolly would be an outstanding candidate for Forty Under 40. He deserves this recognition. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Greg Edwards  
President & CEO



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