**40 Under 40 Selection Committee**

Business Record

The Depot at 4th

100 4th Street

Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear 40 Under 40 Selection Committee Members,

It is with respect and confidence that I recommend Jessie Lowry for the 2019 40 Under 40 Class. The 40 Under 40 program has recognized and developed the emerging talent in the metro area for many years. Recognizing the expectations of these young leaders to build the future of our community, Jessie Lowry would be an excellent choice.

Jessie’s professional accomplishments are many. Her creative and collaborative leadership has created unique and valuable conservation programs, not only at Blank Park Zoo, but in our community and state and around the world. Each of these initiatives required vision, focus and leadership to engage other partners in support of the initiatives. The efforts are founded in education and focus on

stakeholder and general public engagement to bring about positive change. The list in her application is too numerous to mention here but they are significant and contribute to the success of other local, state, national and international programs and organizations, as well as the success of Blank Park Zoo.

In addition to commitment to her profession, Jessie invests her time and talents in many local community initiatives. She is a highly sought-after speaker on conservation and donates her time and expertise to any and all organizations that invite her to speak at their meetings. She is a mentor to several individuals interested in becoming conservation professionals. She serves as a role model and mentor to women and minorities, two under represented populations, interested in the sciences and conservation as potential careers.

Her most recent initiative, the establishment of a formal research initiative at Blank Park Zoo, is both bold and visionary. The research conducted at Blank Park Zoo will benefit not only the zoo but the entire industry of animal conservation, welfare and behavior. The collaborative research that will be done with institutions like Drake University, Iowa State University, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, international research organizations and not for profits will add to an ever-increasing body of knowledge that will train and educate future conservationists, environmentalists, animal scientists and citizen scientists.

While Jessie’s current professional and community engagement accomplishments are impressive, her passion and optimism reveal that there are more great things to come from her efforts and talent. The most important leadership quality that Jessie Lowry brings to the 40 Under 40 Program is her commitment to servant leadership. This is the quality admired by those who work with Jessie and is what engenders trust among everyone she works with in her day to day efforts. She demonstrates this leadership quality by showing respect to all she meets and works with; she passes no judgement on a person’s opinion or position on a topic but works to understand their opinion and position in order to engage them in meaningful dialog and work; she believe in collaboration and commits to working hard to make critical collaborations work in all of her efforts. Most of all, her intent in everything she does is to make the world a better, more thoughtful place, where man, animal and environment seek to find understanding and common ground for the conservation of our great planet.

With high regard and no hesitation, I recommend Jessie Lowry for the 2019 40 Under 40 Class. I believe that Jessie would contribute greatly as a member of the 2019 40 Under 40 Class. I also believe that Jessie would embrace the opportunity to learn from the other great members of the class to make our community and yes, literally the world, a better place for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Armstrong-Gustafson

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2019 Blank Park Zoo Board Chair

Founder and Owner

Amson Technology LLC