



December 28, 2018

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great joy and excitement that I recommend Lauren Dixson for this year's 40 under 40 class. I have had the privilege of knowing and working along-side Lauren since 2011. Lauren may not be the traditional candidate for this honor – which makes, in my opinion, her candidacy even more appealing.

From her resume you will see that much of Lauren's professional experience has been meaningful roles supporting the powerful work of philanthropy. Specifically, Lauren is a leading, national voice in prospect research. Stereotypically, prospect researches are quiet, reserved, and introverted. With simply one interaction with Lauren you will quickly realize that she is far outside the prevailing stereotype. She is energetic, optimistic, tenacious, thoughtful, and joyful about the work she does. Lauren is the rock-star of the prospect research world!

Beyond the incredibly valuable work she leads at Drake, Lauren has served her profession at the highest level. For multiple years she has served the national organization of Apra (prospect researchers) on their Board of Directors; and served as President of their regional Board. In addition, she have been an active representative and presenter at regional conferences for the national organization CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education).

More recently, and a reflection of Lauren's commitment to the Central Iowa community, she went through a rigorous process to be part of the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children) program. Through her work, I have learned much about this difficult but critically important outreach. Lauren's dedication to the children, families and the outcomes of CASA directly reflects what she values – and expects of herself and others.

Lauren Dixson is well deserving of the honor of 40 under 40. She is accomplished in her profession, active in her community, and lives her values everyday through her actions. She would add much to the legacy and the promise of the 40 under 40 program. Thank you for your consideration of her candidacy.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Smith".

John P. Smith
Vice President University Advancement