

January 8, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Christine Her to support her nomination for the 40 under Forty Award. I have known Christine since 2006 when I was her high school chemistry teacher. It was easy to see her potential for uniqueness and creativity. She demonstrated grit, innovation, attention to detail, and problem solving skills. Christine has demonstrated these same qualities in her current work, making headlines in her field through her unrelenting commitment to business growth, professional excellence, and to the Des Moines community.

Christine is a perceptive leader, using relationships to support her work with community stakeholders, donors and her board of directors. I have witnessed Christine's attention to the details of project implementation and responsiveness to the equally important needs of the clients she serves. Of particular note, is her ability to work strategically in a variety of contexts and to effectively tailor all communication and experiences to best meet the needs of her staff, audience, collaborators and potential funders.

On a personal note, as an administrator at Hoover High School, I worked with Christine to extend the opportunity to our students offered by the DSM Heroes Program. Her expertise and talent in the arts allowed her to recognize the value of using art as a lens for developing the talents of our most diverse and marginalized students. Her efforts provided our kids access and opportunity to gain confidence and expand their experiences outside school walls. Many of our students bring extreme life challenges to school each day. In my observations of her interactions, Christine understands those challenges and is an empathetic advocate who provides the necessary supports and works diligently to remove unnecessary barriers. Most importantly, Christine believes in the potential of students and holds them accountable to high academic and personal values.

Christine holds herself, her staff, and clients to high standards and her unwavering belief in people helps lead them to success. In conclusion, Christine Her has the skills and the experiences that will enable her to continue to develop and expand opportunities for the Des Moines community for years to come. Her accomplishments to date are just a hint of what she is capable of developing for our youth and most challenged young people. Please contact me if I can provide any additional, positive information.

Sincerely,

Maureen Griffin

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