To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for the Business Record’s “Forty Under 40” on behalf of Sarah Welch. I have gotten to know Sarah over the past year and feel she would be an excellent and deserving recipient of this very prestigious honor.

I first met Sarah when she was selected to participate in the Community Leadership Program through Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute. This highly competitive and demanding program is designed to prepare leaders to be effective stewards of their community’s future.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with Sarah over the past months serving as a mentor to her project group. They are tackling the issue of homeless individuals in Des Moines and specifically with the YMCA supportive housing campus.

Even in a group full of leaders, Sarah has continued to distinguish herself. She is not only immensely dedicated to her group and their efforts to improve people’s lives, she is incredibly prepared for meetings with her team and with outside organizations.

During this process I have personally seen Sarah ask key questions and directly affect the scope and direction of the project by being proactive while still allowing her group to grow individually. Bringing out the best in others is something that we all strive for but an ability Sarah has already developed. She readily volunteers for any task that arises and does it with an incredible ease that would make most people feel overwhelmed.

She is talented and successful in more ways than I could begin to explain and in my opinion, more than deserving serious consideration for a spot in the Forty Under 40.

Regards,

Rick Eftink

Director of Graduate and Adult Admissions

Grand View University