



December 31, 2018

Dear Selection Committee,

This is an enthusiastic letter of recommendation for Mr. Andy Verlengia to be a recipient of this year's 40 under 40. Andy is a proud Drake graduate and for more than a year has represented the University as our Director of Alumni Relations.

The Director of Alumni Relations position is a highly visible, extremely engaging, front-line role. To many in the Drake and Central Iowa communities, Andy represents the brand and values of Drake University. If there was a central casting call for Drake's Alumni Relations Director, it would have simply recommended Andy. He works effortlessly with staff colleagues, senior administrators including President Martin, and leadership volunteers.

A graduate of Drake, Andy is part of a true University family. His father is a Drake graduate, mother worked for many years at the University, and each of his two siblings are also graduates. They are a family deeply committed to their Institution and their community.

Following his graduation, Andy gained remarkable professional experience working for his national fraternity in Chicago, the Atlanta Braves, and a ten year career with Walt Disney World. Despite his remarkable success, when imagining what would come next; he committed that the only place he wanted to expand his career was Des Moines. With his new focus, Andy, and his new bride (also employed by Disney) headed north to start their new chapter contributing to and enriching the central Iowa community.

While the criteria for 40 under 40 is broad, I'm hopeful that strong character, generosity of spirit, kindness, hospitality, and a tireless commitment to advancing the mission of the organizations he represents are taken into consideration. I can think of no individual who is more committed to discipline and practice of the characteristics listed above.

I recommended with great confidence Andy Verlengia. In all he does, Andy represents himself and the University exceedingly well. He is a rising star at Drake and will be a growing, positive force in Central Iowa for many years to come. He will represent well the spirit and the values of this honor and he will make all past, current, and future 40 under 40 recipients exceedingly proud. Thank you for your service to this effort and for your thoughtful consideration of Andy Verlengia's candidacy.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Smith", written in a cursive style.

John P. Smith
Vice President University Advancement