



January 8, 2020

Business Publications
100 SW 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Forty Under 40 Selection Committee:

Please consider this letter in support of Elizabeth ("Belle") Du Chene's Forty Under 40 nomination as my highest endorsement. She has proven herself both professionally and in the community, and in my opinion is more than worthy of this prestigious honor.

Elizabeth has lived in New York City and Chicago and has had job opportunities across the United States, but she chooses to stay in Iowa. Des Moines is her home and she makes the most of her time here. She has excelled professionally by not only creating her own public relations firm, but also as an adjunct college professor at the University of Iowa and Simpson College, entrepreneur, and inventor. In fact, she is the first person to successfully license the Des Moines' only hot dog cart that operates downtown during the summer months.

Belle is results-oriented. Whether for a client, her own business, or a non-profit, once involved, she steps up and gets things done. An example of this are the impressive social media results and PR placements she has achieved for the Des Moines Arts Festival. This work for clients, such as Des Moines' original Oktoberfest and Indulge – A Wine and Food Event, has received many international honors and awards.

When it comes to civic leadership, Belle's list is long and deep. She is committed to making Des Moines a better place through service on the Downtown Des Moines Chamber, PRSA Central Iowa Chapter, Des Moines Metro Opera, DMARC, ChildServe's Bubble Ball, FemCity, and more.

I cannot think of a young professional in this market who is more worthy of being a part of the 2020 Forty Under 40 class than Belle Du Chene. She is a class act, smart, well-networked, engaged, and will continue to make Des Moines a better place because of her hard work and spirit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Abbas".

Emily Abbas
SVP, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer