**![MCNA00822_0000[1]]()![MCNA00822_0000[1]]()Simpson College Teacher Education Program**

***Mission***

*Simpson College nurtures and prepares highly effective teachers*

*who are competent, caring, and reflective.*

January 7, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

 It is a pleasure to recommend Kassi Hoxmeier as a candidate for the 40 Under 40 award. My acquaintance with Kassi began with our work on the Altar and Rosary Society (STARS) at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Indianola, Iowa and has continued to the present day.

 I believe Kassi will be an excellent candidate for many reasons. First, Kassi has taken many leadership roles within the church. Serving in a four-year capacity as Vice President and then President with the STARS is at the top of her service to the church. She also works on the social concerns committee, leads a youth group in our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, and has organized additional help for our community members struggling though this time of COVID by extended the offerings of Gathering Table which provides meals to those with food insecurity.

 Second, Kassi had proven herself through her commitment, empathy, caring and dedication within whatever role she is a part of within our parish. She was always willing to listen to and encourage any members to join a group or service and has used her communication and social media skills to spread the workload throughout our entire church. She works to make everyone feel welcome and included at all events she is involved in.

 For these many reasons, it is with confidence that I recommend Kassi Hoxmeier as a candidate for the 40 Under 40 award. Please contact me directly if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Kathryn A. Lerseth, PhD

Professor of Education

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