January 8, 2014

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my recommendation to select Justine Peebles for 40 Under 40. I became acquainted with Justine late last summer when she made the decision to run for the Ankeny Board of Education. Within the first few minutes of meeting with her, I was “blown away” by her enthusiasm and passion to make a difference in her community. As a former board member and President of the Board in Ankeny, I spent time with Justine coaching and sharing my experiences with her. I was open and honest. It would not be easy. It may get personal. I shared with her that it is a thankless job that you volunteer for. None of these things mattered nor swayed her from moving forward with her campaign. And, though she did not win a seat this time, she did learn a lot and I am confident she will earn a “seat at the table” at some time in the future.

We had several conversations during her run for election and I feel like I really got to know her well. I have a strong admiration for her passion, dedication and drive to make a difference and help others. Justine is a leader. She is a knowledge seeker. Justine is not afraid to respectfully voice her opinion or question others and engage with them in a mature dialogue. She is eager to learn and will not be satisfied with the status quo. Her resume is a great indicator of her drive for success.

I honestly don’t know of a more capable person to be selected for 40 Under 40. Justine is not looking for credentials to add to her already accomplished resume. Justine wants to make a difference. Please strongly consider her selection.

Best regards,

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