Executive Summary: 40 under 40

I truly feel blessed to call Des Moines home. When I first moved here in 2004 I expected this to be a temporary stopping place before moving out of state to a larger metropolitan area like Chicago, Denver or Minneapolis. I had spent most of my life in Iowa and was under the impression that I would have to move in order to attain my social, professional and cultural goals. Nothing could have been farther from the truth. I have been able to find my true “vocational” calling by establishing roots in Des Moines. Des Moines has afforded me many opportunities as a young adult that I would have not attained in other larger metro areas. I humbly submit my application for your consideration.

One of the ways I have chosen to give back to the Des Moines community is through my involvement in the Des Moines Junior Chamber (a.k.a. Jaycees). I have served on the Jaycee Board of Directors since 2012. I first served in 2012 as Social Chair and then as Treasurer in 2013. I was honored to be nominated to serve as chapter President in 2014. I have found this young professional group to be an invaluable asset to the Des Moines community. The Jaycees put service learning concepts into action through volunteerism. The Jaycees not only provide a plethora of opportunities for professional advancement, but also civic involvement through volunteer opportunities. This organization is creating positive change throughout the metro area.

In 2013 I became very active in the East and South Des Moines Chamber of Commerce. In July of 2013 I officially became Chair of the membership committee for the Chamber. The committee is responsible for recruitment and retention of chamber members. I currently lead a team of six volunteers who are dedicated to help grow businesses on the East and South side of the Des Moines metro.

I currently serve as a member of the Corporate Board for the Iowa Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Group (HOBY). In 2012 I served as the Corporate Board President. That same year I was also asked by HOBY International to serve as a Regional Project Director. I have been assigned five states to help mentor the Seminar Planning Teams. This requires travel and many conference calls as situations arise.

HOBY is a youth leadership non-profit group for juniors in high school. The program brings the state’s best and brightest to learn about the impact of altruism and volunteerism. Our curriculum is based off the social change model. Both the Jaycees and HOBY are committed to advocating volunteerism and serving their respective communities. I have previously been involved with other civic groups including, Impact Downtown, YPIowa and Young Professionals Connection.

I have also been an active participant in my churches. I have previously served on the fellowship committee and now serve on the church’s vision team. I am co-led a young adult Sunday school class each Sunday.

In 2012 the church I was attending started Whiz Kids, an after-school program for disadvantaged elementary students. I was one of the tutors that helped these students with their school work. Each Monday we had approximately 25 students who came to the church for tutoring, recreation and dinner. Many of these students have parents that work second or third shift and are locked out of their residences until late at night. We try to provide them with a safe structured learning environment so they can avoid getting into trouble.

The youth director at our church was appointed to start a new church in the Des Moines metro. My wife and I decided to follow him to help start this new “church plant.” I am now actively involved in planning this new church.

I am also proud of my professional and education accomplishments. I successfully completed my Masters in Business Administration from Drake University in 2008. I also successfully completed my Ph.D in Higher Education from Iowa State University in 2013. I was able to complete my Ph.D in a little under three years, all while working full time.

This is my fourth year full time as a Professor at Grand View University. I also act as the Internship Coordinator for the Business Department. This position involves establishing relationships with local businesses and organizations to help students located internship opportunities. In my professional endeavors I have been asked to speak at conferences on a variety of subjects from Personal Finance, Landing Internships to Navigating Office Politics.