

January 8, 2014

Forty Under 40 Selection Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Dr. Kate Gainer as a nominee for the 2014 Forty Under 40 awards. Dr. Kate Gainer is the Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the Iowa Pharmacy Association. I first became acquainted with Kate in 2004 when she relocated to Iowa to complete a pharmacy practice residency in collaboration with Drake University and Medicap Pharmacy in Urbandale. Following completion of her residency she accepted an entry-level position at the Iowa Pharmacy Association in 2005. As Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Drake University, my interactions with Kate ranged from the development of public policy to entrepreneurial advances in pharmacy practice within our state. Over the course of the next 7 years, Kate advanced through the association becoming the Vice President of Professional Affairs to her current role as the first female Executive Vice President and CEO of the organization. Her responsibilities transcend the accepted daily activities of a CEO of a membership organization as well as a charitable foundation (Iowa Pharmacy Foundation). As Executive Vice President she plays a significant role in the health and well being of the citizens of the State of Iowa. In the current era of health care accountability and change, the role of pharmacists in providing care and serving as an active member of the health care team has direct and lasting effects on each and every citizen of the state. In addition, the Iowa Pharmacy Association plays a leadership role demonstrating how pharmacy practice can positively impact healthcare. Therefore her role as Executive Vice President and CEO of the Iowa Pharmacy Association is significant at a local, state and national level. I am sure that few of those nominated for this award could rival the impact that she has in her position.

Kate is also a committed member of the Des Moines Community. Rather than focus on breadth I will provide an example that exemplifies depth and that is her involvement with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She has had a long-standing and significant commitment to the mission of this foundation and its potential impact on advancing the state of research on juvenile diabetes management. She is a board member of this local foundation and has provided of her time, talent, and resources over a significant period of time. This commitment is unwavering and one to be commended and recognized.

In closing, it has been my pleasure to know and work with Kate Gainer over the past 10 years. My recent transition from Dean to Deputy Provost provided an opportunity for us to discuss common challenges and rewards of a leadership position. I am confident that her career success to date will exponentially increase over the next several decades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raylene M. Rasporich".

Deputy Provost
Drake University