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| January 10, 2014 |

Forty Under 40 Selection Committee

Des Moines Business Record

The Depot at 4th Street, 100 4th Street

Des Moines, IA 50309

**Re: Nomination to Forty Under 40 Class of 2014**

Dear Selection Committee:

I would like to thank you for your time and consideration of my nomination to this year’s Forty Under 40 Class. It would be a great honor to join the other great leaders that have been previously selected. Attached is a personal resume that outlines my professional and community based involvement and accomplishments, however I wanted to take a moment to share the balance that I strive for in all facets of my life.

Starting upon acceptance into the Masters of Architecture program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln I was immediately forced into a situation of finding balance between my selected profession and my family life. Days after my acceptance my wife Susannah and were informed that we would be having triplets! Now going on 13, it is increasingly important for me to find time to balance between my partnership at Brooks Borg Skiles Architecture Engineering and the many activities, studies and special events that come along with have teenage triplets (and a 4-year old).

I firmly believe that my profession of architecture is very much about improving the community and the lives of those people that interact with the projects that we as architects design. Des Moines has afforded me, and many architects, the opportunity to design buildings in a collaborative manner alongside a passionate and progressive community.

After managing a small branch office in Des Moines for a Lincoln, NE firm, I had the opportunity to join Brooks Borg Skiles, one of the oldest firms in the State of Iowa, in 2009. I was honored this last year to join the firm’s partnership as one of the youngest partners in the 118 year history.

While my time within the office and at home, are immensely important to me, I feel it is critical as a professional and a leader, to give of my time and resources within our community. Much of this time for me, has been in mentoring roles. I spent several years mentoring young men at Orchard Place as well as serving on the Foundation Board. Since 2009 I have been actively involved with mentoring high school students in the ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa. This national mentorship program allows me the opportunity to work with students interested in pursuing careers in Architecture, Construction, or Engineering. As a mentor, team leader, and now board member I have been a part of seeing nearly 400 students, from twelve metro area schools, participate in ACE over the last 5-years.

I look forward to continuing this balance of family, work, and community involvement for years to come. Thank you again for your time and consideration for this year’s Forty Under 40 class. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

BROOKS BORG SKILES ARCHITECTURE ENGINEERING LLP



Matthew A. Cole, AIA, LEED AP

Partner

Encl: Personal Resume