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To the Forty Under 40 Committee:

My name is Romelle Slaughter and I am submitting this recommendation on behalf of Suzanne Hull for her nomination to the 2014 Business Record's Forty Under 40 class.

I have known Suzanne personally since our time as classmates at Wartburg College, but our professional association began after college.

In 2009, we reconnected after the both of us became unemployed due to the recession. Suzanne saw an immediate need for a support group for individuals who became unemployed, due to the economic downturn of 2008. Suzanne realized that this downturn would be vastly different than those in the past. It was going to be harder for unemployed people to be gainfully employed again, as the business climate shifted dramatically. She took it upon herself to create "Unemployed in Des Moines" and hold weekly meetings at Smokey Row Coffeehouse.

"Unemployed" was different than typical support and networking groups. It provided sessions on how to handle unemployment from different angles: emotional, mental, skill-wise, and networking. Suzanne reached out to human resource personnel, career coaches, resume writers, among various employment experts, to assist displaced workers to effectively find work or a new career.

Suzanne took the time to help group members create a social media presence by establishing a LinkedIn or a Twitter account; how to network with companies and business professionals; advised them how to utilize their skills or seek ways to obtain new skills that is desirable for employers to take notice of; and provided members an open forum to talk about their successes, failures, and insight about being unemployed and trying to return to the workplace.

During this stage, Suzanne found her calling: providing a service to help clients in creating a social media presence, event planning, and other as-needed business services. She launched her business, Contemporary Business Solutions, as a professional extension of what she has created for Unemployed in Des Moines.

Suzanne is not only dedicated to her business and her clients. She is also an active participant in the community and organizations. She established Stammtisch, a Des Moines based German Club whose purpose is to provide an outlet for German-speakers to practice the language and to meet new people. Suzanne was a 2013 graduate and alum of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, where her class was instrumental in fundraising, remodeling, and moving Amanda the Panda Grief Center into their new location in West Des Moines.

Suzanne is a member of genYP, an emerging young professional organization under the umbrella of the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the leadership team. And finally she was the catalyst in restarting the Social Media Club of Des Moines (SMCDSM) by assuming the duties as president and working with the SMCDSM board in developing new strategies, a mission statement, and educational programs and events to advocate and promote the positive benefits of using social media in business, politics, and in recreational use.

Suzanne is a professional who has displayed a phenomenal ability to multi-task projects, clients, and business with focus and balance. She is, in my viewpoint, a leader in the business community as a young professional.

In the book, "Second Acts", author Stephen Pollan chronicles his life and others in their pursuit of a "second act" in their lives, professionally and personally.

Suzanne Hull has created a "second act", not only for herself professionally and personally, she has helped people find and create their own "second acts" in the process.

It is with that closing thought, I recommend Suzanne Hull for your consideration for nomination to the 2014 Forty Under 40 class.

Thank you,

Romelle Slaughter