

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Business Record Forty Under 40
100 Fourth Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Nomination: Heather Culbertson

To whom it may concern:

My nomination for the 2015 Forty Under 40 is Heather Culbertson, Production Manager and CAD Technician at Big Creek Design Group, a general practice Architecture and Interior Design Firm in Central Iowa that provides design services for University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Central College, Principal Financial Group, various municipalities including Panora, Clive and Polk City. Big Creek Design Group also has a strong presence in the Religious Market with more than 40 Church projects in our portfolio.

I have known Heather less than a year but she is a perfect candidate for the Business Record's Forty under 40. With over 16 years of experience in a traditionally male-dominated career and field, I've seen her excel at every task placed on her desk. Furthermore, Heather earned her career through diligence and hard work, without the aid of a CAD Technician diploma.

As CAD technician, she is responsible for all drawings and construction documents. She works well with contractors and clients, maintaining her professionalism while building rapport. Heather has also worked as a Designer on several projects, including the Central College Maytag Student Center Renovation completed Fall 2014 and Lake Shore Apartments currently in construction in Ankeny, Iowa. As a Production Manager, she provides guidance and troubleshooting advice for all projects working closely with our interior designers and intern architect. Heather's work is thorough and her criticism is valued.

As a single mother of three children, she makes time for each appointment and class while also managing project deadlines. Heather sets the example for work-life balance both at home and in our office. I've witnessed her come in late from a child's morning doctor's appointment and complete master planning drawings for an evening meeting with the client.

Heather deserves to be recognized in Forty under 40, not only because she is impeccable with her words and work, but because as a person, she is genuine. She is genuinely skilled, reliable, and an accomplished member of our team. Heather possesses all the qualities that would make her a respected addition to the 2015 Forty under 40.

Sincerely,



Mary Luna-Duffy, Office Manager

Big Creek Design Group, Inc.
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Big Creek Design Group
design | planning | project management