

January 8, 2015

To: Business Record
Forty Under 40, 2015 Selection Committee

Hello,

I am delighted to submit Mikol Sesker's application for your consideration. Since returning to Iowa, I have had the pleasure of meeting quite a number of distinguished leaders and entrepreneurs and I consider Mikol to be one of the best.

I think of myself as an entrepreneur, leader, and risk taker. Yet, when I find an individual who is competent at process and project management, finance, strategic and tactical thinking, volunteering, following through on her word, presenting, designing and building an architectural vision, carpentry, being task- and results-oriented, a servant leader, humorous, comfortable with all ages and levels of humans and animals, and who is genuinely positive, hardworking, and nice, I find myself enjoying being a member of her team and learning!

I realize that my last sentence was quite an "eyeful" but in my years at AT&T, working around the world with my consulting practice, and teaching at both undergraduate and master's levels, it is rare and humbling that I feel privileged to work with and learn from someone more than 20 years my junior.

I have worked and volunteered along side Mikol for about three years. But, until I joined the Chamber board this past year, worked with her on a Communities of Excellence initiative, and asked her to be a subject-matter-expert in one of my on-line webinars with my undergraduate learners did I fully appreciate the depth and breadth of her experiences and competence. But what is even more remarkable is that she chooses to live and stay in Knoxville, restore an old house, create an office incubator environment, renew life in a bankrupt business that is now a multi-national organization, and consider starting another business ... but then she is going to be Past President of the Chamber so she has time on her hands now.

However, I will admit, Mikol does not walk on water, but it's such a pleasure to know and work with her.

I hope you consider her to be an ideal colleague for Forty Under 40 in 2015. I know you'll enjoy her.

Be well and thank you for your consideration.



T. Waldmann-Williams, PhD
641-828-6407



Richard W. Schrad
615 South Attica Road
Knoxville, IA 50138
January;8, 2015

Business Record
Forty under 40
ATTN: Jason Swanson
100 Fourth St.
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Business Record:

I am pleased to offer this recommendation for Mikol Sesker to be considered as a candidate for you Forty under 40 Awards. I arrived in Knoxville as its City Manager in 2005 and retired in 2011. I came to know Mikol for her active transformation of a downtown storefront business building and restoration of her home close to the downtown area. I always found her to be a staunch supporter of Knoxville entrepreneurs and a real asset in our efforts to revitalize business and neighborhood areas.

After my retirement, I became more acquainted with Mikol's efforts as she worked to bring a SCORE chapter to Knoxville, became President of the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, and has been heavily involved in keeping our Self Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID) active and relevant. She has also taken over direction of the Knoxville Ambassadors, a Chamber organization dedicated to assisting new and retained businesses.

Mikol has also lent considerable time and talent to Knoxville's two sponsorships of the WHO-TV RVTV events in our city and has worked tirelessly for a variety of programs sponsored by the Knoxville Public Library.

I have found Mikol to be the type of person any community would love to have in their midst. She has the intelligence and the drive to accomplish whatever she wants without sacrificing her great sense of humor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dick Schrad'.

Richard W. (Dick) Schrad





Loebsack tours "business incubator" in Knoxville

journalexpress.net

Congressman Dave Loebsack made another trip to Knoxville today, this time to tour Knoxville's "business incubator." Loebsack