Judy Crane

Science Center of Iowa

401 West Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway

Des Moines, IA 50309

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Selection Committee

Business Record Women of Influence

100 4th St.

Des Moines IA. 50309

Dear Selection Committee:

I am writing to recommend Emilee Richardson for the Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence award. When I heard that the Business Record was adding an Emerging category to the established Woman of Influence award, I thought two things. First I thought, “Great idea!” There are so many accomplished young women in Des Moines who are poised to become leaders in the business and philanthropic community and deserve to be recognized. The second thought was, “Emilee Richardson.”

Many people know Emilee as the president of the Young Professionals Connection where she has led the organization through a strategic planning process that will solidify YPC’s position as the local and national leader in young professional development. Through YPC she has touched countless non-profit organizations in Des Moines and Central Iowa. Along with her YPC involvement, Emilee is active in the Young Non Profit Processionals Network and Drake Young Alumni. With Drake, Emilee has been a vocal and successful advocate of Drake University encouraging Drake graduates to give back and get involved in Des Moines. And is poised to become a strong supporter of Drake in the future.

What people might not know is that Emilee has had a tremendous effect in her tenure as Marketing and Communications Manager at the Science Center of Iowa. In her time here, Emilee has quadrupled SCI’s reach on social media spearheading efforts that led to more community engagement than we have ever seen. Her hard work and keen insight was integral in promoting the Sue exhibit at SCI that resulted in the three business attendance days in SCI’s history. In addition to her hard work and strategic thinking, Emilee is a supportive co-worker and role model. She constantly encourages her peers to get involved and give back to the community.

In the non-profit world, it is easy to be short sighted in your organizations goals and not invest in other charities or causes. This is not the case for Emilee Richardson, she is constantly working to better her community and organization through thoughtful service and work. Although she does not seek attention or acclaim, I am positive that she is your strongest candidate for the Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence award.

Sincerely,Judy Crane