May 1, 2017

To Whom it May Concern,

My Name is Kelly Anderson. I was one of Kimberly’s Summer Interns several years ago. (Back then I was known as Kelly Knutson). Let me just say that it was one of the best summers of my life! I had several internship offers for that summer, but I followed by intuition and chose the job at Golden Openings, Inc., and mostly because of Kimberly.

Kimberly is a very fun person and a pleasure to work with and for, yet exhibits a very polished professional demeanor. She carries a very warm and friendly personality that is inviting to all.

I think you can learn something from just about anyone, but Kimberly is a person that I admire for her work, children and family, professional demeanor, creativeness, goals and can I say incredible level of physical fitness and motivation! (She encouraged us to go on walks at lunch--now who doesn’t need that kind of boss?)

She has very clear communication skills and was always willing to work with me if I didn’t understand something at first, even though Golden Openings is a very fast paced and ever changing environment. She let me dive right in and meet with her clients, pitch in ideas, help her with whatever she was doing and trust me to the best of my ability, all while be patient and supportive, even when things didn’t go to plan. As an event planner you have to be able to think on your feet and re-set up the tent if it blows over in the wind, so to speak. *(As Kimberly would say).*

The things that I learned from Kimberly in 6 months or less, is more than I learned in four years of college, in my personal and career path. I learned about owning your own business, chamber involvement, community affairs, fund raisers, networking, honesty, ethics, sponsorships, press releases, graphic design, balloons & decorations, building and constructing theme sets and even how to wear a clown suit and look good. She provided me with skills, knowledge and gave me endless “pearls of wisdom” that impacts my life, career and family, to this day. She brought out the best in me all while providing fair, honest feedback in my endeavors and experiences with her in the office.

I know she continues to offer her internship programs today, inspiring young people out of and in high school and college to reach for their dreams, as we exchange letters and Christmas cards each year. She loves Iowa and continues to grow her business on national levels. I am happy to say I now own my own design business and I am happily married with three darling kids. I am grateful for my time with Kimberly and all of her advice, guidance and positive outlooks on life. If there is a person alive that deserves “UNI Business Woman of the Year Award” more than Kimberly, I’d certainly love to meet her.

Sincerely,

Kelly Knutson (Anderson) - Former Intern at Golden Openings, Inc.

Minneapolis, MN