



# THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE®

January 13, 2016

To the 40 Under Forty Selection Committee:

I am writing to provide our strongest support for the nomination of Josh Braby for recognition as a member of the Forty Under 40 class of 2016.

We had the pleasure of working directly with Josh on an almost daily basis for over two years when he served as project coordinator on behalf of Neumann Brothers, the general contractor for the most significant and difficult endeavor our Foundation had ever undertaken – the \$29.9 million restoration of the historic Des Moines Public Library Building.

In this role, Josh was the key link between our staff, our three sets of architects, the Neumann Brothers staff, as well as all of the subcontractors on both the construction work on our building and the creation of the beautiful public garden on what had been a parking lot. This was an amazingly complex undertaking in a building that is over 100 years old. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and we were committed to achieving LEED Platinum certification, the highest possible level of energy efficiency and resource conservation.

Josh is a highly capable and talented individual who integrates vision and innovation with amazing technical expertise. His strong leadership combined with brilliant technical knowledge were incredibly valuable skill sets throughout the project. Thanks in good measure to his leadership and coordinating skills, the work was completed on time for a grand opening in October 2011 to spectacular reviews. Neumann Brothers considers it one its very top accomplishments in its 100 year history. It is a crown jewel in the development of the new Principal Riverwalk along the Des Moines River.

It is important to stress the complexity of this project since every detail of the restoration had to be accomplished within the extensive guidelines and detailed specifications mandated by both the National Park Service and Iowa's State Historic Preservation Office. With Josh's careful attention, every one of these requirements was fulfilled.

Perhaps an even more significant achievement was our attaining the LEED Platinum certification. At the outset of the project, this goal was considered virtually unobtainable in a building that was designed in the 19th century and on the National Register of Historic Places. With Josh's leading role in our LEED coordinating working group, the construction was able to be carried out in a way that maximized the points needed to attain this objective.

Based on the above, we are pleased to provide our endorsement to the nomination of this dynamic young executive who is already a leader in the construction and historic restoration industry.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn (ret.)  
President

Hall of Laureates • 100 Locust Street • Des Moines, Iowa 50309 USA

Tel: +1-515-245-3783 • Fax: +1-515-245-3785 • wfp@worldfoodprize.org • www.worldfoodprize.org

## Foundation

**Dr. Norman E. Borlaug**  
1914-2009

**John Ruan**  
1914-2010

**John Ruan III**  
Chairman

**Amb. Kenneth M. Quinn**  
President

## Council of Advisors

**Hon. George Bush**

**Hon. Jimmy Carter**

**H.E. Joaquim Chissano**

**Margaret Catley-Carlson**  
UN Secretary General  
Advisory Board on Water  
Canada

**Dr. Zhangliang Chen**  
Vice President China Association  
for Science and Technology

**A.S. Clausi**  
Vice President of Research  
General Foods (Retired)

**Dr. W. Ronnie Coffman**  
Director, International Programs  
College of Agriculture and  
Life Sciences, Cornell University

**Sir Gordon Conway**  
Professor of Intl. Development  
Imperial College London

**Dr. Louise Fresco**  
President Wageningen University  
Netherlands

**Michael Gartner**  
Pulitzer Prize Winner

**Dr. Steven Leath**  
President, Iowa State University

**M. Peter McPherson**  
President, APLU

**Cynthia Milligan**  
Dean Emeritus  
College of Business Administration,  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**H.E. Roberto Rodrigues**  
Former Minister of Agriculture  
Brazil

**Yohei Sasakawa**  
Chairman, The Nippon Foundation

**Dr. M.S. Swaminathan**  
Chairman  
Laureate Selection Committee