



Re: Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence Award, letter of support for Danielle Hermann, AIA

Dear Members of the Jury:

It has been my pleasure to work with Danielle for much of my career. Our paths cross regularly. As an architect, she manages some of the most complicated projects in downtown; as an activist interested in more meaningful roles for women in our design professions, our aspirations align. Her professionalism and can-do spirit make working with her very enjoyable. Through accomplishments, leadership, and critical thinking, Danielle is an inspiration to our profession and our community. She is an excellent candidate for this honor.

Danielle has an impressive portfolio of architecture projects. Recently, those that she has been designing and managing are among the biggest, most visible and complex underway in our metro, including Principal Financial's campus renovations and Krause Gateway Center. Both are projects that received incentives from the City of Des Moines, bringing increased public scrutiny and design review process. She gracefully balances the demands of her clients while respecting the requests that the City makes through our various processes. With a positive attitude, respect for the process and creative problem-solving, I have seen her invariably find 'elegant solutions' that address the variety of seemingly divergent input to the satisfaction of all. When Danielle represents a project, I know that her team will be responsive and the project will be impeccably managed.

In 2011, I had the opportunity to work with Danielle and two other local architects to found Iowa Women in Architecture (iaWia), a nonprofit that recognizes the stubbornly slow growth in women's involvement in design careers and aims to support and promote women involved in design and construction of the built environment. The time-consuming and diligent work of founding such a nonprofit was an enjoyable and meaningful pursuit with our founding four. In the process of starting the group, she was a sound leader in the administration of the group, in the outreach to our state's architecture firms and in the delicate work-life balance research we conducted. The group is about to celebrate its 6-year anniversary – attendance and engagement remain high with membership at an all-time high this year, a testament to the solid foundation Danielle helped lay, the professional and personal respect she has earned, and the inspiration she provides.

I enthusiastically recommend Danielle for this honor. She epitomizes the rationale for such an awards program – well-earned recognition for the honoree and motivation for scores of young professional women, to pursue career advancement, leadership, community engagement, and a fulfilling family life.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Erin Olson-Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erin Olson-Douglas, AIA