

1 January 2019

To Members of the Awards Committee,

I am the Executive Director of Zenith Chamber Music Festival and the Professor of Cello at Drake University and am writing this letter in strong support of Kendra Erkamaa. I have witnessed Kendra's energy and work ethic in numerous settings, including helping lead Board meetings, speaking at events, managing fundraising situations, and creating and improving on opportunities to give back to the Greater Des Moines community.

I asked Kendra Erkamaa to join the Board of Advisees for the Zenith Chamber Music Festival because she exudes the talent and skills necessary to motivate and influence those around her. She donates her time, an invaluable resource, because she recognizes that it is her duty as a female business leader to continue to work to improve our community. I have noticed that she tackles every project that she takes on with a strong determination to create the best possible outcome. Through her work with Zenith, she has succeeded in finding new opportunities for the festival to reach a broader audience base, creating unique ways to fundraise for a more sustainable future, and in helping me to improve our business model so that we can continue to offer free events to the community. Kendra's work on both the Zenith board as well as generally within the community is unsurpassed. She is extremely organized and has a strong work ethic. She is one of the most reliable members of the board that I have worked with and I know that, no matter how difficult or out of her comfort zone of a task that she takes on, she will always rise to the challenge and go beyond expectations.

Kendra Erkamma is a leader within our community not only for her dedication and hard work as a businesswoman, but through her endeavors to continue to build the Des Moines community through a multi-pronged approach. Her diverse work, not only with her successful financial business, but with building the arts community, encouraging strength in education, volunteering, and empowering young women through the example she sets confirms that she is vital to the continued growth and strength of Des Moines as a whole.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ashley Sandor Sidon

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