



May 28, 2015

Women of Influence Committee
Business Record
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

To Whom It May Concern:

Li Zhao Mandelbaum has my strongest support for her Woman Business Owner of the Year nomination. As someone who has developed a strong mentor/mentee relationship with Li over the years, I have admired her ambition, her success, and her community involvement, and I believe that she is most deserving of this honor.

Li is a perfect example of an immigrant entrepreneur. Given her flawless command of the English language and her strong reputation throughout the community (she apparently knows everyone), it's easy to overlook that prior to 2008, she had never even been to the U.S. She spent her first 25 years in China and then a couple years in Europe, but moving to the U.S. was always her dream. She quickly established herself in Des Moines and started China Iowa Group to capitalize on her experience. Des Moines is fortunate that such a dynamic young woman has chosen to call it home.

I first met Li in 2012 and was immediately impressed by her professionalism, her educational background and her tremendous international experience, especially at such a relatively young age. I had not met anyone quite like her before. We began having mentor/mentee meetings shortly thereafter. I found her vision of conducting trade and investment between Iowa and China as critical to connecting our local economy to the world's most populated country. And she works extremely hard to make her vision a reality. I took great joy in providing guidance and insights into certain industries that she was exploring. She is a great listener and is quick to learn. I am proud to see the progress and achievements she has made such as bringing local companies such as Stine Seed Company and Jasper Winery into the Chinese market. She was recognized as one of the key players for feeding China in the Register's "Feeding China" series.

It's fitting that I met Li not through business, but through a board we both serve on – the Broadlawns Foundation Advocate Circle – where we work together to help raise awareness and money to support mental health issues in Iowa. Li joined the board not only to support Broadlawns, but also to educate herself on how to become an effective non-profit board member through the board's unique mentor/mentee structure. I know she is also very active in the Chinese and Asian communities here in Des Moines, together with other local non-profits. Based on what I have seen in her volunteerism at Broadlawns, I am certain that she has been making great impacts in those areas as well.

Like all past Woman Business Owner of the Year awardees, Li understands the importance of both being an entrepreneur and giving back to the community. She truly deserves the award and I kindly request that you give serious consideration to Suku Radia's nomination. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johnny Danos', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Johnny Danos
(515) 238-3495

GRAND VIEW

UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 11, 2017

2017 Women of Influence Selection Committee
Business Publications Corporation
100 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Selection Committee:

I am writing to share my support for Li Zhao Mandelbaum's nomination as a 2017 Woman of Influence. Li is an example of the type of business leader Iowa will rely on in the coming years: an entrepreneur with roots outside of the United States who is willing to learn what makes Iowa unique and equally willing to share her insights.

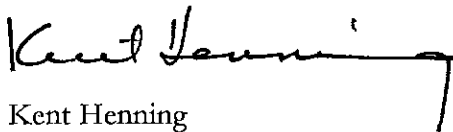
I have known Li for many years, but have spent much time with her this past year when she joined the Grand View University Board of Trustees. In her short time on the board she has impressed her colleagues with her preparation, key insights, and attention to detail.

Many of the qualities that make Li essential to Grand View are what make her a woman of influence in Central Iowa. Just as business leaders rely on the China Iowa Group for insights into trade and business in China, I value her insight as my only board member to graduate from a college outside of the United States. Li's experience with De Lage Landen and Agricredit, as well as her successful entrepreneurial experience, are essential to Central Iowa and a fine example for Grand View University business majors.

Li is someone who takes her commitment to the community personally. Since joining the board she has already spent time with students sharing insight from her business career. She and her husband, Justin, are also raising a beautiful baby girl. Li is a loving mother who appropriately puts the needs of baby Lulu first.

We are truly fortunate to have Li Zhao Mandelbaum as part of the Grand View and Des Moines community. I enthusiastically support her nomination as a Woman of Influence.

Sincerely,


Kent Henning

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