

November 21, 2016

Seattle Public Schools
John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence
MS 31-676 PO Box 34165
Seattle, WA 98124-1165



To: Hanban Awards Committee

On behalf of Seattle Public Schools and the Confucius Institute of the State of Washington (CIWA), I am pleased to recommend that our CIWA Chinese Director, Wenqiu Wang, be recognized as the **Chinese Director of the Year**.

From the moment of her arrival in Seattle in spring 2014, Ms. Wang eagerly embraced the many projects that CIWA was engaged with. In just over two and one-half years, Wenqiu has already had some notable accomplishments:

- Three successful Confucius Institute Days in 2014, 2015, and 2016, with outstanding attendance and recognition at the October 23, 2016 CI Day held at one of our CIWA-sponsored Confucius Classrooms, Skyline High School.
- The launch of our first three Confucius Classrooms in three different school districts in the state. The celebration, which was attended by our partner schools from Chongqing, included a very effective Confucius Classroom workshop where experienced Confucius Classroom programs in the state could share their experiences, challenges, and successes.
- A continuing partnership with the Seattle Chinese Garden on the Community Chinese Corner, but also larger events, such as cosponsoring the Chongqing Acrobats at Chief Sealth International High School, which was a beautifully executed event in September 2015.

Besides taking the lead in organizing these important events in the community, Wenqiu had collaborated closely with me on the very important work of expanding and strengthening our Chinese language programs in Seattle Public Schools, in particular our Chinese Immersion programs starting from Kindergarten, now through grade 8. Thanks to CIWA's support, we've been able to provide crucial professional development opportunities for our teachers, including our guest teachers, in order to ensure that they have the best information available about how to be effective when teaching American students. These projects are not as visible as events like CI Day, but they represent the foundation for building a sustainable Chinese language program in our region. This year, we are particularly pleased that Hanban funded three new Chinese literacy projects thanks to Wenqiu's careful attention to including them in our grant proposal.

The opportunity to build such a close collaboration with a colleague from China is one of the special gifts of having a Confucius Institute in America. In fall 2015 (barely six months after arriving in Seattle), Wenqiu went above and beyond to arrange an amazing trip for our new Seattle Schools' Superintendent, Dr. Larry Nyland, to visit China and meet our partners in Chongqing. This trip made a big impression on the superintendent, and it has helped ensure ongoing support for the Confucius Institute in Seattle Public Schools. The fact that the delegation also included a School Board Member, Director Stephan Blanford, whose wife and daughter were

able to spend part of the spring in Chongqing, are also helping to guarantee our future success in Seattle.

In summary, Wenqiu's accomplishments are excellent. She can be a worthy example for any Chinese Director around the world. Thank you for considering her for this great honor in 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light beige background. The signature reads "Michele Anciaux Aoki" in a cursive script.

Dr. Michele Anciaux Aoki, International Education Administrator, Seattle Public Schools
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