

Dear Board of committee members,

My name is Lili Zhang. I am writing this letter in strong support of my colleague, Lei Wang, for Outstanding TA Award.

I can declare without hesitation that Lei Wang is a very qualified applicant for the Outstanding TA Award. Before I graduated from IDD&E program, I had worked with her on IDE courses. She has gone above and beyond to create an encouraging and supportive environment for her students. She worked very late in the TA office, searching, testing, and providing up-to-date resources and tools that undergraduate students need for their future teaching. She used to be an experienced teacher in China, where she gained excellent proficiency in teaching various disciplines. She had been studying in Instructional Design, Development, and Evaluation program for almost four years, where she was enriched with instructional design methods and strategies that could better guide her teaching.

She is always passionate about improving her expertise in teaching. As a mom of two children, she also displays an exceptional grit to balance learning, teaching, research, and family. She is also willing to enhance her abilities in organizing school activities as well as handling different school committees such as SOE.

She has an outstanding rapport with her students and colleagues. She is very generous with her time, knowledge, and resources. She replies to students' email promptly and is pleased to schedule meetings with students when they have difficulty. She is very respectful to her students and treat them equally. She always delivers her instruction through an engaging and creative manner. She also showed proficiency in integrating technologies into instruction to facilitate learners of different needs.

She has very positive attitude toward difficulties. During the pandemic, many TAs felt frustrated when redesigning the courses fully online. Lei is different. While she has always been motivated to implement innovative approaches in the classroom, she has been extremely proactive in learning about and implementing best practices for online course delivery during the pandemic. She received positive feedback on online versions of our IDE courses that she taught.

Lei also has very high standards and expectations of herself and her students which, I am convinced, are designed, in part, to prepare them for a successful entrance in the teaching career. I noticed in her class, she was very rigorous, she didn't leave students drifting on their own. Her course was well organized, instructions were clear, and additional resources

were always available. Another thing that impressed me most is she always gave students constructive feedback in a timely manner. The consistency, clarity, and succinctness always guided students to climb to a new level.

In sum, Lei Wang's many contributions to our department and the development of undergraduate education are truly remarkable. She is highly deserving the 36th Outstanding TA Award.

Sincerely,
Lili Zhang