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**From:** Zierdt, Ginger LuAnne

**Sent:** Saturday, November 17, 2012 8:36 PM

**Subject:** Re: reference for Beth Sandell

It would be my delight and pleasure to respond to your questions regarding Dr. Sandell.

1. I've known Dr. Sandell since 2005.
2. We have worked together in various capacities. First, both of us share common interest and commitment to Early Childhood as we have worked on a handful of community-based early childhood initiatives, most specifically through the Success-by-Six impact area of the Greater Mankato Area United Way. Dr. Sandell and I have traveled to Russia together on University-partnership development work with Northeastern State University in Magadan, Russia. This work has fostered continued collaboration as my husband and I have served as home-stay families for students and faculty from NSU. In the past two years, Dr. Sandell and I have worked together in the Department of Elementary & Early Childhood Education, as I'm currently serving as interim-Chair. As you may be aware, Dr. Sandell applied and received approval for a full-sabbatical for this current academic year, but she remains deeply committed to her students and the work of the department – so it is my delight that I do connect with her at least once per month and more often via email – we miss her greatly, but know that her research is vitally important to the mission of our University.
3. In my opinion, Dr. Sandell's greatest strengths are as follows: accomplished scholar and researcher, tremendous analytical ability, keen and receptive communicator, problem-solver, skilled relationship/partnership builder across stakeholder groups, and has a tremendous ability to arrange and synthesize complex components – especially in planning and developing international learning experiences that involve students, faculty, and community members.
4. There are no areas that come to mind that would impede Dr. Sandell's success in managing this project.
5. There are no areas that I would have any hesitation or reservation about regarding Dr. Sandell's ability to work in cross-cultural environments – please know, this would be the area that she would shine above all others. Not only is it within the scope of her current research, but she is considered an exemplar at our University – just yesterday, Dr. Sandell was bestowed the honor of "Global Citizen" by Minnesota State Mankato. To learn more, please read the following: <http://www.mnsu.edu/news/read/?id=1353079764&paper=ed>

Dr. Sandell has my deepest respect and admiration not only as a professional educator, but as a community leader and champion for children. I highly recommend Dr. Sandell, and it would be my great pleasure to visit with you further if you have questions or need additional information.

Kind regards,  
Ginger

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Ginger L. Zierdt, Ph.D.

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