

2011 COMMUNITY LEADER AWARD IN BUSINESS

JOAN YANG, PhD

JOAN IS THE FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF RAND & JONES ENTERPRISES, AN AWARD WINNING GENERAL CONSTRUCTION, AND BUILDING MATERIALS SUPPLY FIRM THAT IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY MINORITY WOMEN. JOAN HAS GUIDED THE GROWTH OF HER COMPANY WITH A SINGULAR VISION AND RESOLVE. SHE HAS ALSO DONE MUCH TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MINORITIES.

JOAN BEGAN HER CAREER AS A BIOLOGIST, HAVING EARNED DEGREES IN PLANT PATHOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY FROM THE NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO. AFTER FIRST BEGINNING AN IMPORT BUSINESS AND THEN PURCHASING A LOCAL MARBLE FACTORY, JOAN SAW THAT THERE WAS A LACK OF MINORITY CONTRACTORS IN THE WNY AREA. AFTER LEARNING THE TRADE, SHE EXPANDED RAND AND JONES TO FIT THAT NICHE, AND 25 YEARS LATER SHE IS THE HEAD OF A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR LOCAL BUSINESS.

BY BEING A PIONEER INTO WHAT HAS BEEN A MALE DOMINATED INDUSTRY, JOAN OPENED THE DOOR FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN AND MINORITY BUSINESS OWNERS. A GRADUATE OF THE LEADERSHIP BUFFALO CLASS OF 1999, SHE ALSO SERVED ON THE BOARDS OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COUNCIL, THE NFJC, THE GREAT LAKES BUSINESS CONSORTIUM, AND THE CHINESE CLUB OF WNY. SHE SUPPORTED THE ANNUAL UNITY DAY AT MLK PARK, THE NFJC'S WALK FOR COMMUNITY, AND HAS RAISED FUNDS FOR HISPANICS UNITED.

FOR BEING A ROLE MODEL AND FOR HER DEDICATION TO THE PEOPLE OF WNY, THE NFJC IS PROUD TO PRESENT DR. JOAN YANG THE COMMUNITY LEADER AWARD IN BUSINESS.