

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DEGREE
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary Doctor of Science degree to Dr. Temple Grandin at the Spring 2023 commencement.

Details of Dr. Grandin's Accomplishments: Iowa State University wishes to present an Honorary Doctor of Science degree to Dr. Temple Grandin, distinguished professor of animal sciences at Colorado State University, animal welfare pioneer and activist for people with autism. Iowa State would like to recognize Dr. Grandin for her outstanding career in humane animal handling, animal welfare and related facilities design, and using her experience living with autism to influence her understanding of animal behavior.

Dr. Grandin was born with autism but not officially diagnosed until adulthood. She finally learned to talk after beginning intensive speech therapy at age two. Mentoring by her high school science teacher and her aunt motivated Dr. Grandin to study and pursue a career as an animal scientist and livestock equipment designer.

Today, Dr. Grandin is a world leader in the design of livestock handling facilities. In North America, almost half of all cattle processing facilities include Dr. Grandin's invention of a center track restrainer system. She works with large feedlots and commercial meat packers, including Cargill, Tyson, JBS Swift, Smithfield, Seaboard, Cactus Feeders, Costco, and many others. She authored the "Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide" for the North American Meat Institute and has been instrumental in implementing animal welfare auditing programs that are used by McDonalds, Wendy's, Whole Foods and other corporations.

Dr. Grandin has published hundreds of industry publications, book chapters and technical papers on animal handling plus 100 refereed journal articles in addition to 15 books. Her book, *Animals in Translation*, was a New York Times best seller and her book, *Livestock Handling and Transport*, now has a fifth edition which was published in 2019. Other popular books authored by Dr. Grandin are *Thinking in Pictures*, *Emergence Labeled Autistic*, *Animals Make us Human*, *Improving Animal Welfare: A Practical Approach*, *The Way I See It*, *The Autistic Brain*, and *Temple Grandin's Guide to Working with Farm Animals*. In 2010, Dr. Grandin performed a Technology Entertainment Design (TED) talk entitled, *The World Needs All Kinds of Minds*.

Dr. Grandin is a past member of the board of directors of the Autism Society of America. She lectures to parents and teachers throughout the U.S. on her experiences with autism. Her impacts on autism awareness and humane handling of animals have been highlighted in articles and interviews in the New York Times, People, Time, National Public Radio, 20/20, The View, and the BBC. In 2010, she recognized by Time's "The 100 Most Influential People in the World."

Faculty members in the Department of Animal Science at Iowa State University nominated Dr. Temple Grandin for the honorary degree. Her nomination is supported by Iowa State's Faculty Senate Honorary Degree Committee and Executive Board, Senior Vice President and Provost Jonathan Wickert, and President Wendy Wintersteen, who is pleased to present it to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa.