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# The University of Georgia

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Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of English

January 22, 2022

**Letter of Recommendation, James M. Fortier:**

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter of support for filmmaker and colleague James M. Fortier. I have worked with James for the past 20 years. We have collaborated on a number of historical documentary films since 2000. He's is an Emmy Award winning documentary filmmaker. He has over two decades of experience making documentary films, and screening them at universities and college lecture halls.

In 2006, I hosted James at the University of Illinois for a ten-day artist-in-residency. He lectured in classrooms, screened films, and even gave my honors' class post-production tips for their individual documentary films. His residency at Illinois was the highlight of my students' semester work, and they said so in their end-of-year evaluations.

James' passion for visual storytelling, attention to details, and critical eye is another reason I wanted to work with him in 2016 on another film collaboration *Searching for Sequoyah*. The 56-minute documentary film that aired across the United States in November 2021 on PBS and affiliate stations tells the story of Sequoyah, the inventor of the Cherokee language syllabary and his extraordinary journey to Nacimiento, Mexico. As producer, James Fortier coordinated every aspect of the production with me and other crew members. As director, he was patient and collegial with all the people on set. For these reasons, I highly recommend him for the position of substitute teacher in any program that he applies to. He is a wonderful teacher and colleague.

Sincerely,

LeAnne Howe  
Distinguished Professor in American Literature &  
Interim Director of Native American Studies  
University of Georgia