



January 18, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The following letter is to offer my support and recommendation of James Fortier, an Ojibway documentary filmmaker, to work as a substitute teacher. I have known and collaborated with Mr. Fortier for over 2 decades. As such, I feel quite able to write a supportive letter on his behalf.

James offers an invaluable talent and resource to the American Indian community or any educational institution. His expertise in media relations as both a director and producer is unparalleled in a time where integrity can be undermined by economic desire. His work on the PBS documentaries, "*Alcatraz is Not an Island*," "*Waasa Inaabidaa - We Look in All Directions*," "*Bad Sugar*," and mostly recently "*Searching for Sequoyah*", among others, are testaments to both his vision, talent and above all his integrity as a visual documentarian.

I support American Indians who continually serve their communities and the American Indian community at large. As an Ojibway, James has remained true to his people and has offered his expertise and talents to the rest of Indian Country and beyond. In 1999 he volunteered to co-direct and co-produce the Alcatraz Occupation 30th Anniversary Celebration on Alcatraz. His background and expertise provide him with a unique perspective that non-Native producers and directors cannot offer.

Additionally, James has illustrated a commitment to education, by taking his documentaries and media projects to other levels. For example, he has served as a guest speaker in several of my courses to discuss his various film projects, as well as educate others about the on-going issues that face American Indians in the contemporary world. He has also spoken about his experiences at major film and television conferences, in print, and in community settings.

As you can see by his extensive resume, James is uniquely qualified to serve the needs of your education institution. It is without reservation that I offer my support of James Fortier, who exhibits the qualities of professionalism, integrity, and creative communications.

If you should have any questions, or need to further discuss Mr. Fortier with me, you may contact me at 650-255-2860.

Sincerely,

Joely Proudfit, Ph.D. (Luiseño/Payómkawichum)
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