

# [Heidi Marie Cuny]

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To Whom it May Concern:

I worked with James Fortier of Turtle Island Productions while in the position of Communications Manager at Oweesta, a nationally-based Native American non-profit organization and Native community development financial institution intermediary. As Oweesta celebrated its 10-year anniversary, we contracted with Mr. Fortier to create "*A Path of Renewal: A Decade of Transformation in Native Community Development*," a 30-minute film that showcased the work of various Native community development organizations in the continental United States, as well as in Alaska and Hawaii.

Our main challenge as a non-profit organization was, of course, working with a tight budget but still producing a piece that would effectively communicate the breadth of work and the amazing accomplishments of the organizations participating in the film. Mr. Fortier offered a unique solution so that we would not incur extensive travel costs and stay within our budget. In order to complete interviews and capture additional footage in each of the locations, Mr. Fortier contracted with a local filmmaker and used Skype technology to direct the filming. I was also connected into this live stream of video so that I could oversee the process and ensure that all necessary points were captured. In addition, I worked closely with Mr. Fortier in the same manner to edit the video.

For two of our locations, we decided it would be best to have Mr. Fortier on site himself. He showed the utmost professionalism and respect for the unique cultures of our film participants. It was evident that he understood the trials Native communities endured and had a passion for expressing their voice in the medium of film.

The final product exceeded our expectations! "*A Path of Renewal: A Decade of Transformation in Native Community Development*" concisely and clearly explains the complex issue of Native community and economic development in an engaging manner. As you can see by his extensive resume, Mr. Fortier is more than qualified to serve the needs of your project. It is without reservation that I offer my support of James Fortier, who exhibits the qualities of professionalism, integrity, and creative and reliable filmmaking.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 605.255.5909.

Sincerely,



Heidi M. Cuny  
Principal  
Cuny Communications