



The Laughing Willow Company, Inc.
200 West 86th St.
New York, NY 10024

January 26, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Media Director, for The Center for Sacred Studies, a non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining indigenous ways of life through cross-cultural spiritual practices, ministry and education. I'm writing this letter to sing the praises of Ms. Shelley Cook-Contreras. She has been a part of The Center of Sacred Studies media team since the spring of 2006, primarily working as a camerawoman on a feature documentary film currently in production called "For the Next 7 Generations: the Grandmothers Speak." It's the story of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers from around the world who have come together to share their ancient and sacred wisdom and their earth-based traditions, so that all of us can heal our selves, our relations and our Mother Earth.

Shelley way surpassed my expectations, as both a member of our production team and a media artist. Her camera work is fresh, original and professional. She is a remarkable artist, with a great eye and sensitivity to what's going on around her. She is able to work well with all kinds of people, inspiring trust and co-operation. She is adaptable, taking up new responsibilities with ease. She works hard and long, and knows how to get a lot accomplished quickly when circumstances demand it.

Shelley is an amazingly energetic person of diligence and commitment. She first proved herself during production in Mexico, and later traveling to Dharamasala, India, where the International Council of the Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers had their semi-annual meeting. While there, they joined in a media Spacebridge via Satellite with the Bioneers in their annual Conference in San Rafael, Ca. They also met with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, in discussion and prayer. Without fail, Shelley was an indispensable member of our team, utilizing her remarkable talent as a filmmaker to help deepen the scope of this very important project. This past year, she was a key member during our work with the Lakota people, on the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota.

I believe Shelley has a wonderful contribution to make, as both a teacher and artist. I hope this letter will enable her to step into her role as a teacher of interdisciplinary art, where she can share her remarkable talents, and years of experience in filmmaking, with her students.

Best regards,

Carole Hart, Media Director
Center for Sacred Studies,
Producer/Director
For the Next 7 Generations