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## NEZ PERCE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to write a recommendation for Marcus Guinn. He has been a valued colleague and friend since 2002. From our first meeting, I could tell there was something very special about him. The way that he connects with people and shares his perspective on issues and a wide range of human experiences is amazing. I often leave a conversation with Marcus feeling more enlightened and encouraged. He is extremely intelligent and is blessed with many valuable experiences, skills, and talents. I've known him to always work for positive change for youth, families, and communities.

As the Director for the Nez Perce Tribe's Students for Success Program, until 2009, I witnessed firsthand Marcus's professionalism and skill set. There are a few consultants, in the U.S., who I considered part of my "A Team." He was one of them. What this meant to me is that the consultant was genuine and stayed true to his or her beliefs and messages. Marcus always came to our community prepared to deliver his services in a manner that was geared toward our unique situation. He is very conscientious about the quality of his work, because he knows that he is in the position to impact impressionable young people or concerned adults who are seeking answers.

One special project that we accomplished together, with consultant Kimberly Norris-Guerrero, was the creation of an education DVD called "Doing It?" This was a project supported by a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant awarded to the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC). Our program partnered with NNAAPC to create a media tool geared toward teenagers. Marcus contributed to the overall design and creation of the project, which was focused on educating young people about how community norms, peer pressure, and media influence affects one's decision about sex outside of a committed relationship. The DVD was well-received. It passed through the CDC's materials review committee and was mass produced by them for distribution throughout the country. He also has made a difference on the national level through his tenure as a consultant and spokesperson for the Native American Outreach Center's "Parents Speak Up!" campaign (supported by Department of Health and Human Services). This program utilized media to educate parents on how to help their children make healthy choices. He was instrumental in developing the "Share Your Vision" media and workshop materials targeting American Indian/Alaska Native populations.

Through his music career, Marcus not only reached people through his CD's and concerts, but also improved his business management skills. He had to learn about all levels of the music industry, including advertising, financing, publicity, recording, sales, etc. When the tasks seemed insurmountable, he stayed steadfast in his efforts until the project became a reality. Overall he has persevered as a small business owner (consulting services and music) for over ten years.

I can see Marcus being successful in any endeavor he pursues. He would be an invaluable contributor to your organization. If you would like to discuss more specific attributes that Marcus possesses, please feel free to contact me at (208) 621-4610. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Joyce McFarland*

Joyce McFarland

Education Department Manager