



Graduate School of
Social Work

June 30, 2009

The National Speakers Association
1500 S. Priest Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85281

Re: Certified Speaking Professional reference

Dear NSA CSP Committee Members:

It is with great pleasure that I provide a reference for Jessica Pettitt's application for the CSP process with your organization. As the primary organizer for the *2009 Pedagogy of Privilege: Teaching, Learning, & Praxis* conference held at the University of Denver, I was responsible for recruiting scholars, educators, speakers, and community trainers to lead workshops for the 300 attendees of the conference.

From colleagues, I knew of Jessica's reputation as an amazing presenter who embodies the flexibility of being able to engage students, professionals, and community members in workshops on issues of power, oppression, and privilege. I was extremely happy when she agreed to come to Denver and present a workshop as part of the conference.

In the planning process for her participation, she was very flexible, working to tailor her workshop to the needs of the conference and to the specific audience. Of the 42 workshops that occurred at the conference, Jessica's was one of the highest rated with participants commenting on how she was engaging, knowledgeable about the subject matter, and one of the highlights of the conference. Given the quality of the workshops at this conference as well as the nationally-known trainers and presenters, this was very high praise indeed.

From my perspective as conference organizer, I found Jessica to be very professional, highly responsive, and very easy to work with. I will, no doubt, be calling on her for future training and presentation needs in the future.

If you have any further questions, about Jessica's qualification for your program, I can be reached at 303-871-4367 or by email at ewalls2@du.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'N. Eugene Walls'.

N. Eugene Walls, MSW, PhD
Assistant Professor