



**KENTUCKY COMMERCE CABINET  
KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Steven L. Beshear**  
Governor

100 West Broadway  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone 502-564-1792  
Fax 502-564-4701  
www.history.ky.gov

**Marcheta Sparrow**  
Secretary

**Kent Whitworth**  
Executive Director

February 18, 2008

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support of the work Meredith Martin has done for the Kentucky Oral History Commission and the Kentucky Folklife Program over the calendar year of 2007. Upon faculty recommendation at WKU's Folk Studies and Anthropology Department, I contracted with Ms. Martin to teach oral history documentation in a summer camp for underprivileged youth held by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, a pilot project called Kentucky Remembers!. Ms. Martin not only jumped at the opportunity to conduct the 5 day training, but signed on for several weeks more on a volunteer basis. During this time, Meredith helped the students from two different camp sessions to understand and conduct oral histories with civil rights leaders in their communities. She also had the flexibility of negotiating an untested curriculum and managed to earn respect from these groups of middle and high school students—not always an easy feat-- in return, they gained an appreciation for oral history and community stories.

As a result of the hard work and success Ms. Martin experienced during these summer camp sessions, she was the first person on my list when the next contract opportunity arose. During the second half of 2007, The Kentucky Folklife Program needed someone to coordinate a survey project with 4 Community Scholars, another pilot program documenting the Rural Heritage Development Area in central Kentucky. The survey project was conducted in conjunction with the Cultural Conservation course at WKU during the Fall 07 semester. Ms. Martin arranged meetings, mediated problems, kept everyone organized and pulled the two documentation groups together for an insightful and creative collection of primary documentation which culminated at the end of the Fall 07 semester. Not only was this mediation of groups successful, Ms. Martin proved her ability to roll with the punches of a new project and her ability to work with adults in equal finesse as the teenagers from the Kentucky Remembers! project.

I can honestly say that without working with Ms. Martin on a contract basis for these 2 first time projects, their effectiveness would be in question. Ms. Martin brings enthusiasm, an elevated degree of technical knowledge, quality organizational and interpersonal skills, as well as genuine concern for the projects outcomes and benefits. She is an asset to any project she is involved with and I hope to be able to work with her in the future.

Sincerely,

Program Coordinator  
Kentucky Oral History Commission  
Kentucky Historical Society