



DEPARTMENT OF ASL & DEAF STUDIES

January 24, 2017

To whom it may concern:

Ms. Andrea Sonnier asked me to write a letter of support for her doctoral candidacy for which I am absolutely thrilled to do so.

I have known Andrea since 2013. She is a very warm, friendly, caring and intelligent young woman.

Andrea did her internship with me for 10 weeks, from January 21 - April 2014. She worked in the SLCC Lab. She developed an annotated bibliography, transcript video to written English, learned how to do a content analysis, as well as the basic statistics required to report this data. She participated in weekly instructor meetings. Andrea was of tremendous help to Dr. Joseph Hill and I especially with the Black Deaf Families project. She was instrumental in helping us with data collection. Her presentation at the National Black Deaf Advocates' 2014 Eastern Regional Conference in New York and Southern Regional Conference in Tennessee, "An Exploratory Study of Black Deaf Families" was very well-received.

I truly believe that Andrea can contribute to the field of Deaf Education as a researcher and scholar. She is a hard worker and very determined to succeed. She has the zest, passion and enthusiasm to accomplish her goals. I am confident that she will do well in your program because it has been her lifelong dream to obtain a Ph.D. degree and join the cohort of Black Deaf Americans with Ph.D. degree.

I am truly excited for Andrea. She has a passion for social justice and a fervent commitment to educate young Deaf people, the general public, the Deaf community as well as the Black Deaf community. This stems from her own personal life experiences, a desire to make a difference and more importantly, from her awareness of the changing demographics in the Deaf community and the larger society.

It is for these reasons that I totally support her doctor candidacy. Her drive and abilities will truly be an asset to your program. If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached via email at Carolyn.McCaskill@gallaudet.edu or vp at [202-250-2337](tel:202-250-2337).

Sincerely,

Carolyn McCaskill

Professor
ASL & Deaf Studies Department