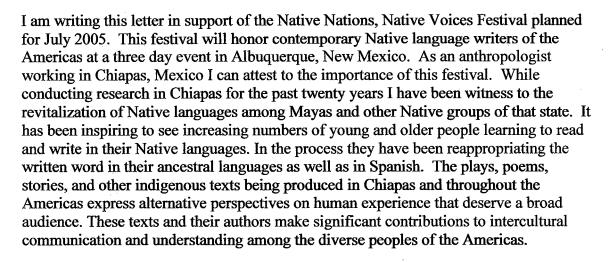
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To whom it may concern:



Anthologies and other books are beginning to make their way into bookstores, libraries and schools. For example, several of the contributors to a book I recently edited on women of Chiapas are Native women, among them Ruperta Bautista Vasquez, a Tzotzil woman poet and playwright. Bautista Vasquez has never had the opportunity to travel outside of her home state of Chiapas. She has been invited to attend the festival in Albuquerque. At the festival she will have the opportunity to meet other writers from indigenous communities throughout the Americas. This experience will provide her with inspiration, encouragement and points of comparison with her own life and work. She will take this experience back with her to Chiapas where she works with indigenous children. I am confident that the festival experience will reverberate throughout her work and life for years to come, inspiring others to write, against the odds.

I believe that the Native Nations, Native Voices Festival is highly deserving of support. I sincerely hope that organizations and foundations concerned about language and indigenous peoples will see a way to fund this promising program.

Sincerely.

Christine Eber

Associate Professor, Anthropology