



June 13, 2013

Prof. Michael Rodriguez  
Chair, Humanities Department  
LaGuardia Community College, CUNY  
31-10 Thomson Avenue  
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Prof. Rodriguez:

I am delighted to be able to write a letter of support for Professor James Richardson, who is currently up for final tenure review in your department. Let me first introduce myself to you and to your committee. I am the Graduate Center's Senior Academic Technology Officer, a historian and professor in the Urban Education PhD program, the Coordinator of the Interactive Technology and Pedagogy doctoral certificate program, and co-director of the New Media Lab. I have worked at the intersection of digital technology and teaching and scholarship for the better part of my thirty plus years at CUNY.

I have known James Richardson for four or five years. We first met on the CUNY Committee on Academic Technology (CAT), where he represents (quite ably, I think) your college and I represent The Graduate Center. James is an active and engaged contributor at CAT meetings, who speaks with conviction and knowledge about how digital technologies are changing the way we teach and how our students learn across CUNY. James has always taken a keen interest on CAT in how digital technologies have reshaped academic scholarship and the attendant questions of how those changes require us to re-imagine traditional academic evaluation procedures, especially for tenure and promotion. James was motivated enough to propose and organize an important session at the CUNY IT conference a few years ago on which I participated that focused on these ongoing questions facing the academy about professional evaluation in the digital age. George Otte, the CAT chair, was so impressed by James's work on that CUNY IT conference panel and his subsequent report back to CAT about it that he asked James to chair a new sub-committee of CAT on academic scholarship and evaluation. And as a member of the editorial collective that edits and publishes the online academic publication, *The Journal of Interactive Technology at Pedagogy*, I encouraged James to put his thinking and arguments about digital media and the question of tenure and promotion into publishable form for other academics to think about and engage with. I am delighted to say that James's essay, "Establishing a New Paradigm: The

Call to Reform the Tenure and Promotion Standards for Digital Media Faculty,” appears in the latest issue of *JITP* (accessible at <http://bit.ly/19xMCF1> ). The article makes a much-needed intellectual and academic contribution to ongoing debates about how digital media work can and should be used to help faculty committees make informed and appropriate tenure and promotion decisions. I am not unaware of the irony in citing this article in my letter of recommendation for James’s tenure, but I do think it makes a compelling case that all of us, especially those of us working in the humanities and digital humanities, must pay attention to.

I recommend James Richardson for tenure with great enthusiasm and without reservations. He is an able scholar and colleague, he’s a credit to your department and to LaGuardia Community College, and I think he will be an active and productive scholar for years to come. Please feel free to contact me directly if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Brier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Stephen Brier