



ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dean Gracie Lawson-Borders, Ph.D.
Cathy Hughes School of Communications
Howard University
Delivered via electronic mail

Dear Dean Lawson-Borders:

I am writing in support of Yanick Rice Lamb, who is seeking promotion to full professor at Howard University's Cathy Hughes School of Communications.

Yanick describes herself as a mom and a realistic optimist. In fact, she is a visionary who is never too busy to encourage the dreams of others, even as she chases her own. Under her watch as chair of the media, journalism and film department, Howard's journalism program has been ranked among the top 20 in the country.

Several Howard students have won NABJ's Salute to Excellence award, the Society of Professional Journalist's Mark of Excellence and Hearst, considered the collegiate equivalent to the Pulitzer Prize. Yanick sends her students out to roam venues from local neighborhoods to the White House, and come back with news to report on a plethora of campus outlets: the [Howard University News Service](#); The Hilltop campus newspaper; PBS station WHUT-TV; and the Howard University Radio Network, which includes commercial station WHUR-FM, student-run WHBC, Glass House Radio and two Sirius XM satellite channels.

Yanick launched [101 Magazine](#) and [TruthBeTold.news](#), considered the first collegiate fact-checking site, through the Online News Association's Challenge Grant for Innovation in Journalism Education. She has supported students in organizing New York media tours; "Beyond the Covers," a magazine and new media conference; a regional watchdog conference for Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE); and workshops through the new Ida B. Wells Society for African-American investigative reporters. She is also working to develop a Media Innovation Center and expanding partnerships with professional news organizations.

To truly understand the magnitude of Yanick's impact, just look at the range of media outlets where her students have landed as interns or full-time journalists: the Wall Street Journal, Houston Chronicle, CBS, The Associated Press, Time Magazine, Reuters, ABC News, Vox, Bloomberg, USA Today, The New York Times, BuzzFeed, Essence, The Washington Post, ESPN, Google, TheRoot.com, Complex, the Philadelphia Daily News and Glamour magazine. Some have gone the entrepreneurial route and launched their own companies.

Yanick infuses her feature writing, reporting, editing and entrepreneurship courses with her experiences at the New York Times, Essence, BET Weekend magazine and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, which asked her to write "I Touch the Future. I Teach." She keeps her own skills fresh as a freelance journalist, consultant and founder of FierceforsBlackWomen.com _ all while pursuing a doctoral degree in order to better serve up-and-coming journalists of color.

I absolutely value the partnership that Yanick has cultivated with our news operation. Every Howard student that I have recruited through Yanick and hired as an intern at The AP came in newsroom ready and did not disappoint. All of them are working journalists today.

Thank you for taking the time to consider elevating this most excellent journalism educator. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have additional questions or desire further elaboration.

Respectfully,

Sonya Ross