

**Biography:** Monika Raesch PHD is Associate Professor in the Communication, Journalism & Media Department, at Suffolk University Boston. She is a native of Germany and holds degrees from four different countries, implying her passion for foreign cultures and film. Prior to joining Suffolk University she taught film and media studies in the UK. Dr. Raesch has published articles and book chapters on subject matters in film theory and history and teaching pedagogy.

On February 27, 2020 at 6:56 AM Monika Raesch <mraesch@suffolk.edu> wrote:

Dear Jim,

It is an honor and a privilege to write this letter to you.

I was an international student at Framingham State College (now University), majoring in video production. As part of the curriculum, I had to find a 4 credit internship in the production field. It was very difficult to find an organization that was willing to have me intern. When I thought I had found one with a competitive organization in Boston, they called me and cancelled my internship on Christmas Eve (; the internship would have started on January 2nd for the spring semester) as they had found an American student at that time. You literally opened the door to me and kept me on track in my studies by accepting me as your intern.

Reflecting on my internship at this time, almost 20 years later, I can say that without a doubt I learned more from you and the other volunteers at WayCAM than I would have at the professional production house with union contracts,... You took the time to mentor, provided lots of different opportunities, understanding that I was a senior who needed a strong reel to apply for jobs post graduation. You assigned me b-roll tasks, live shows (as camera operator, TD and director),... ensuring that I would have a well-rounded skill set and a strong reel.

You definitely helped me built confidence in my skills in an industry that was (and still is) male-dominated. Yet you never made me feel as though I was less valuable than a male intern. I truly felt like an equal, and as I can tell you from experience, this is still not the norm.

WayCAM provides students (whether HS students or college interns) with a safe space to learn skills, take creative risks, all while being mentored by an outstanding Executive Director who deeply cares for the students.

**WayCAM** has built a community for Wayland where community members can come together and be passionate about video production and other topics (that TV shows and films are made about); **it is an integral part of the town's heart.**

Best,  
Monika Raesch