As you begin selecting or have selected your mentors for the VMM Creative Shorts Fellowship, ask yourself what makes a great mentor? We, at Vision Maker Media, believe a great mentor will pass down knowledge to you that will last a lifetime. They are your teachers and biggest career advocates. We also believe that great mentors for this Fellowship will be committed to working with Vision Maker Media to mold you into a knowledgeable and strategic filmmaker for years to come. A great mentor will also teach you skills that will help you be the best person you can be in life.

Listed below are a few points of criteria Vision Maker Media would like to see from your Vision Maker Media Short Film Fellowship mentors:

1. Mentors will have at least three (3) years of professional experience in filmmaking or a related field, such as:
   - Producing or directing long or short form narrative/documentary films
   - Working as an upper level educational instructor in film production, theatre, journalism, or Native American studies courses
   - Broadcast journalism related field work
   - Exceptions to these examples will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by Vision Maker Media.

2. All mentors should understand the stages of filmmaking in research and development, pre-production, production, and post production at an advanced, professional experienced level.

3. Mentors are experienced with the ins and outs of projecting and generating budget reports and general ledgers. They are a knowledgeable wiz with Above the Line and Below the Line funding allocations via Microsoft Excel.

4. Mentors have a love for teaching and will make themselves available to you in a timely manner when you need help, assistance or have questions.

5. Preferably, mentors live within a 50 mile range to you geographically for an interactive experience. (Mentors not meeting this criteria will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by Vision Maker Media).

6. Ideally, mentors have worked with Vision Maker Media on past projects for an in-depth knowledge, experience and training to making films at PBS standards of quality and complex rights agreements.

7. Ideally, mentors have experience writing and applying for film funding through state and federal grants to share tips for your film grant writing, fundraising efforts.