

Greg & Dave,

I dropped by with family and friends to sit in your NE field and watch the eclipse yesterday.

First, thanks for having me to your campus and having an event to welcome the community to your fine campus.

Second, I'm a Facilities Manager, and I must tell you that Scott Krambuhl is doing an excellent job. Beautiful campus! I don't know Scott, but I know a clean and well maintained place when I see one.

A couple of my favorite parts of the campus were the fountain (RUNNING! Rare these days), the "Organic Land Care" sign (SO TRUE) and I must say; your porcelain. Traveling from Seattle, and thinking that we would at best get a porta potty in a dusty field - spending the better part of 6 hours at your site - we all had to go.

So, thanks. Thank you for doing a great job and sharing your community.

Give Scott some love!

Best,

Chris

August 25, 2017

Dear Dr. Hamann & LBCC Board of Education:

My sister and I had the privilege of attending the LBCC Eclipse Festival last week, and I am writing this letter to tell you how impressed we are with your college. I know my sister, Joelle McConlgoe, will also be writing her own letter to share her sentiments as well.

We made our plans to travel to "the zone of totality" only two weeks before and stumbled onto your website doing an internet search. To be honest, our decision to stay at your college was initially a default decision. As you know, there were few overnight accommodations at that point in time and certainly not any within our price range. So, with some trepidation of what we were getting ourselves into and a sense of adventure, we booked our two camping spots and arranged for our trip. It would be two moms (us!) and four kids traveling from California (Fresno and Pleasanton), and we had no idea what to expect!

What a pleasant surprise to be greeted by such a welcoming community and an educated group of people that were truly excited at our presence. Both my sister and I commented many times that this was the exact experience we would have chosen if we had to do it all over again. Everything was organized, friendly, and welcoming. Again and again, we were stunned by the enthusiasm of the leaders and their generosity. We attended interactive lectures, received

free posters, safety viewing glasses, learning folders from NASA, multiple demonstrations and kid-appropriate activities, an evening concert, access to telescopes both for nightly viewing and eclipse viewing, a delicious and hot breakfast, and more! So many details were thought out – a medical tent, the grill being open for dinner, Kona Ice truck, and finally the thoughtful and appreciated string of red lights (not glaring white!) to highlight the path to the bathroom at night.

Two individuals definitely stood out to me in making the LBCC Eclipse Festival a success. The first was Eric Slyter. Eric was absolutely wonderful. I spoke to him by phone early on and he patiently answered every single one of my questions and made me feel very comfortable moving forward with our plans. He also sent detailed emails with maps, events listing, and FAQs. Once there, we saw him endlessly working hard and directing others – truly a leader by example. Most notable to me is when I asked him where I could purchase a poster that was given out by lottery. (My son was quite interested in it because he had a Tshirt with the same image). Eric led us into the student union office and literally pulled off a duplicate poster hanging on the wall and handed it to us. I was stunned. It was the equivalent of a man giving me the shift off his back. Such is the character of Eric, and I hope you recognize him as a valuable commodity to your college. (*Please copy him on this email as I was unable to locate his direct email.)

A second individual that made our time there absolutely delightful was Greg Mulder. His enthusiasm was contagious and his energy was abundant. We attended two separate lectures by him and also were instructed by him at the telescopes. He tirelessly and patiently answered all our questions and accommodated our young children and their interest. His interactive lecture on “The Birth and Death of Suns” is something I will never forget – from the brick-breaking feat on the bed of nails (I was the volunteer/victim) to the implosion of the large canister to the thermal camera to the finale of balloons popping to the “1812 Overture.” It was fantastic! It is obvious that he has an excellent rapport with his students and is an inspiring instructor. He is a note-worthy asset to your faculty.

Please forward my letter of appreciation to the appropriate individuals so both Eric and Greg receive the recognition they deserve.

I have been so grateful that I made this impromptu trip to view “totality”. As many have expressed, I never anticipated totality to be such an awe-inspiring event. But my experience was truly augmented by the culture I experienced at Linn-Benton Community College. There are numerous locations where I could’ve viewed “totality” and that experience alone would have been amazing, but I wouldn’t have had access to educators, telescopes, lectures, and such an inspiring community. I could’ve been “nickled and dimed” for every little thing, like some of my friends were at different places. Instead, I got to experience “totality” at a welcoming and generous institution that truly focused on making the experience educational and enjoyable. I am so grateful to LBCC and people like Eric and Greg for such a unique and unforgettable adventure.

Sincerely,

Camie Sorensen, MD, MPH
4157 W. Ellery Way
Fresno, CA 93722

Thank you so much for having such a wonderful festival ahead of the total solar eclipse. My family and I enjoyed the eclipse festivities the day before the eclipse (band, demonstrations, lectures, ice cream, etc) and watched the eclipse the next day from the campus. Thank you again for sponsoring this type of activity.

Nick Marple

Dear Dr. Hamann and LBCC Community,

I want to express my sincere appreciation for an excellent and enjoyable Eclipse-Watching event held at your campus last weekend. The facilities, the planning, the program, and the people were top-notch!

I appreciated the hospitality shown by the college to let us use the soccer field to camp, especially as all other accommodations were completely booked. We would not have come to see this great event if LBCC had not been so generous in opening their campus to a bunch of people with tents! In addition, the afternoon programs were terrific! My children and I thoroughly enjoyed the talk given by Greg Mulder entitled Life and Death of Stars (one of the highlights of the weekend! He is a terrific teacher.) We enjoyed looking through the telescopes (first time I've seen Saturn!) And the homemade ice cream science experiment was a hit with young and old alike (yum!)

I'd like to send a special thanks to Eric Slyter who worked tirelessly before and during the event, yet was always warm, welcoming, and helpful. In addition, all of the staff and volunteers who we encountered were friendly and helpful. Your people are truly a credit to your institution.

We had not previously been to Oregon, but we were so impressed with the weekend that was organized by your college that we hope to come back soon. We will proudly wear our LBCC t-shirts that we purchased as a great reminder of the wonderful hospitality and education we received there.

Many thanks!

Sincerely,
Joelle McConlogue, M.D.

Dear Amanda,

What a wonderful letter of support. It was my pleasure to work with Eric, and with so many other students, staff and faculty to transform our vision for LBCC's Eclipse Festival vision into an amazing experience for the attendees. I'm proud to have donated time and energy to this gift to members of our educational district. I think we achieved our program planning outcomes, manifested our college mission and contributed to the cultural richness of our community well, but could not anticipate how we; that resonated with others throughout the country. I'm still amazed that our campers chose LBCC's eclipse festival over all of the other events advertised as available.

There SO are many other unsung student and campus heroes in Campus Facilities, Food and Conference Services, Public Safety, the Bookstore and the Library who made this event a success, but you can see some of the leadership at the final meeting in the attached photos. Truly, we couldn't have pulled off this magnificent event without initial support from Greg and the Board of Education, and Dale and Bruce's decision to hire Eric as the Eclipse Coordinator. Eric has a remarkable way of making things happen, and his passion and love of science was evident throughout the entire festival.

Greg Mulder, Brian Reed and Parker Swanson, Evan Thatcher and Anne Magratten are inspirational colleagues. Finally, Dale Stowell and his band Uprising and our very own Jodie Smalley, the fire dancer were the *volunteers* who provided Sunday night's entertainment.

Chareane Wimbley-Gouveia
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Hi Dr. Hamann.

We'd like to thank you and LBCC for your hospitality during the eclipse last week. Driving from the Los Angeles area, we were prepared for the worst, but traffic on 99E was almost non-existent, and your welcoming campus, with a small but enthusiastic crowd, the science fair exhibits, rest rooms, Wi-Fi, a terrific lawn and trees to show the crescent shadow effect made for a wonderful experience.

We wish you well in the upcoming term.

Sincerely,

John, Lisa and Kevin (who just stared at SJSU) Rotunni