



HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

December 17, 2012

Dear Mr. Kimmel,

We write to formally invite you to visit Humboldt State University and speak at our 2013 Commencement Ceremonies, which are set for May 18.

Alternately, if this conflicts with your schedule, please consider visiting during the Fall 2013 semester and giving a lecture and/or performance. Humboldt State is turning 100 next year, and we would welcome one of our famous fans to help us celebrate. We hope you will accept this opportunity to learn more about our extraordinary institution and the beautiful natural environment that surrounds us.

You may not remember this, but you recently got a few laughs on your show by talking about the new Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research.

We thought some of your lines were actually pretty funny, as did many on campus. However, like many students and alumni, we also felt you shortchanged Humboldt State University, portraying all of our students as pot-obsessed slackers. That was not fair, and this invitation offers you a chance to grow a little and make up for it.

Besides, we figure you owe us. Humboldt State provided you just over 3 minutes of pretty good material, which must be worth quite a bit for a nationally televised program (though we are surprised you were unable to stretch the bit to 4 minutes 20 seconds).

During your visit, we can help you learn about some of Humboldt State's many positives. Just a few:

- Research by HSU Professor Steve Sillett and his colleagues has been featured twice in *National Geographic* cover stories, most recently in the December 2012 edition. Sillett holds the Kenneth L. Fisher Chair in Redwood Forest Ecology.
- Among master's level public universities, HSU has the third highest proportion of students who go on to earn doctoral degrees in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).
- Our Schatz Energy Research Center, among many other accomplishments, built the nation's first street-legal hydrogen car. Current work includes setting LED lighting standards for developing countries.

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- A selection of recent rankings: “Top Public Western University” by *U.S. News and World Report*, a “Best in West College” and “Green College” by Princeton Review, a Military-friendly school by *GI Jobs* magazine, a “Vegan-Friendly College” by PETA, and an LGBT-friendly school by Campus Pride. Both *Outside* magazine and *National Geographic Adventure* magazine have included our hometown of Arcata in “best of” lists.
- We also, as you suggested, have really good Ultimate Disc teams, and our newer Disc Golf team holds its own. Behind campus is “Redwood Curtain,” one of the country’s best disc golf courses.

In addition, California’s North Coast is one of the world’s most beautiful places. The natural environment here is stunning, with ancient redwood forests, a pristine coastline and rugged mountains. You should see it for yourself, and also take time to meet some of the wonderful people who live in our community.

Based on your interest in Humboldt State and the new Institute, we are going to assume you will accept our invitation. We will move forward, tentatively scheduling you for Commencement, with the understanding that you may choose to speak in the Fall instead. Our expectation is that you will want to waive your customary fee, in part because, as we mentioned, we have already helped you earn it.

Please contact us as soon as practical to discuss arrangements. A multi-day visit would be preferable, as we very much want you to have plenty of time to visit with our students and tour the surrounding area.

Sincerely,



Rollin C. Richmond
President



Ellyn Henderson
President, HSU Associated Students

P.S. Feel free to wear the enclosed cap on your show – we think it will look great with just the right suit.