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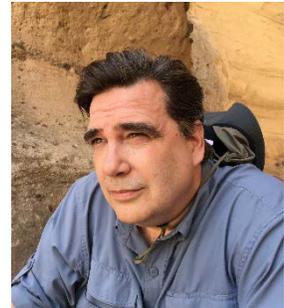
NASA Nebraska Space Grant Hosts Great Nebraska Eclipse Lecture Friday

Omaha, Nebraska – NASA Nebraska Space Grant is hosting the Great Nebraska Eclipse Lecture on Friday, August 18, 2017, at 7 p.m. and will distribute free solar eclipse viewing glasses at the event while supplies last.

Michael and Kendra Sibbernsen, university astronomy lecturers and subject matter experts, will discuss the science behind the eclipse, how to safely view the August 21 Solar Eclipse, and what viewers may expect to see in Omaha and the surrounding areas during the event. The Sibbernsens, who manage operations at the Branched Oak Observatory, are leading NASA Nebraska's High Altitude Ballooning project during the Solar Eclipse and will offer information about the live-streaming video of the event as well.

The 60-minute presentation will be held in Room 101 of the College and Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) at UNO. Free parking is available.

Michael Sibbernsen is a Lecturer of Astronomy at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln, and the CEO of Branched Oak Observatory located northwest of Lincoln, Nebraska. Before working at the university, Michael held positions at the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum and the NASA Nebraska Space Grant. Michael has traveled throughout the state delivering hundreds of hands-on science and astronomy demonstrations and workshops. For the past 6 years, Michael has been the co-lead for the NASA Nebraska High Altitude Ballooning Program launching scientific payloads created by area students and also training other burgeoning ballooning teams throughout the state.



Dr. Kendra Sibbernsen teaches physics and astronomy at Metropolitan Community College where she is the lead online faculty member for natural science and the head of the undergraduate research group. She has taught college science classes for 20 years. Her research focuses on the fields of high altitude ballooning, cosmic ray studies, and astronomy education research. Kendra serves as the CFO for Branched Oak Observatory, a non-profit astronomical park north of Lincoln, Nebraska. Both she and her husband, Michael, are astronomy educators and co-leads for the NASA Nebraska High Altitude Ballooning project and they are the parents of 15-year old twin boys, Matthew and Lucas.



Additional information:

- NASA Nebraska Space Grant activities in Nebraska: <http://ne.spacegrant.org/>
- Branched Oak Observatory: <http://www.branchedoakobservatory.com/>
- Nebraska High-Altitude Ballooning, including photos: <http://nearspace science.com/>
- NASA's Live-Streaming Eclipse Sit: <http://eclipse.stream.live>