



COLLEGE of
CENTRAL
FLORIDA

—an equal opportunity college—

December 7, 2011

Ms. Donna Wissinger
2199 Astor Street #502
Orange Park, Florida 32073

Dear Donna:

Thank you so much for your *Beowulf* performance and the amazing workshop you facilitated for our adult education students. The population we serve through our adult education program has had little or no experience with live performance and classic literature. With ages ranging from 16 to mid-70's, our students have almost no cultural exposure in this very rural county. We are very dependent on bringing State Touring Grant performers in each year, so our students have the opportunity of seeing and experiencing master musicians and storytellers.

You and Joy not only do that, but you bring another whole dimension to our students by welcoming them with such warmth and openness. Often adult education students have not had good academic experiences. They are under-served, mostly low income, and have never heard a flute or drum, or the myriad other instruments you and Joy play, in person. Some performers would come into this hard scrapple crowd, get the performance over, and leave. You and Joy don't do that. In fact, your workshop probably ran long because you were so open to their questions and comments.

During your performance I was watching reactions of students and staff. Our students were **mesmerized**, and teachers were beaming from ear to ear when the students performed or read. The man who read the "King" part would not have been able to read that aloud several months ago. It was a powerful and empowering moment.

These are the joys you bring to people of all ages through your performances. It is a high point of our year when you perform and we hope funding continues to allow you to come to Levy County. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Joan B. Luebbe
Adult Education Coordinator

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