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For immediate release: **Feb. 21, 2024**

Observe the Partial Solar Eclipse at the Triton College Earth and Space Center this Spring



RIVER GROVE – Prepare to experience one of nature’s greatest spectacles on Monday, April 8, 2024, when a total solar eclipse will sweep across the continental United States. While totality will not be visible from the Chicago area, Triton College’s Cernan Earth and Space Center is hosting an event to safely observe 93% of the sun eclipsed, weather permitting.

A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the sun, according to Kris McCall, director of Triton’s Cernan Center.

“The rare occasions of solar eclipses, even just partial, become extra special when they are visible from your location,” said Wayne Foster, an educator at Cernan Center’s Planetarium. “Watching the moon move slowly in front of the sun, through safe eclipse viewing glasses, of course, has filled so many with a sense of awe and wonder at the majesty of our universe and our place in the cosmos.”

After this year, “the next total solar eclipse to cross the United States will not be until 2045,” added McCall. “We want everyone to witness this eclipse in 2024 instead of waiting 21 years for your next opportunity.”

In preparation for the 2024 solar eclipse, Triton College’s Cernan Earth and Space Center will feature the show, *ECLIPSE: The Sun Revealed*, in its Planetarium starting March 1, 2024. This dramatic program explores the history and cultural views of eclipses, the unique geometry that causes eclipses, how to view a solar eclipse and shares the firsthand account of one eclipse chaser's experiences traveling to see a total solar eclipse in another country.

“We want people to fully appreciate what makes a solar eclipse so amazing,” said McCall.

Along with understanding the science, history and culture of this event, safety is the number one priority when it comes to observing the sun. Special eye protection designed for direct solar viewing is required and is already available for purchase at the Cernan Center’s Star Store, said McCall. Solar eclipse glasses and viewing cards cost just \$1.80 each, and the center is offering quantity discounts to schools, senior centers, scouts and other groups.

All ages are encouraged to come view the 93% partial solar eclipse from the Cernan Earth and Space Center on the Triton College campus. The projected schedule for the April 8 event is as follows:

- **9:30 a.m.** – The Cernan Center’s Box Office and Star Store will open to sell Planetarium tickets and eclipse glasses, along with other merchandise.
- **Noon-3:30 p.m.** – Weather permitting, visitors will observe the partial solar eclipse, which will begin at **12:51 p.m. CDT**, as seen from Triton College. Telescopes with full aperture solar filters and a variety of indirect viewing methods will be provided for all to enjoy. Over the next hour, more and more of the sun’s bright disk will be blocked by the moon. Maximum eclipse will occur at **2:07 p.m. CDT**. After that time, the moon will appear to cover less and less of the sun’s disk until “last contact” at the end of the partial phase at **3:22 p.m. CDT**.
- **ECLIPSE: The Sun Revealed** will be showing in the Planetarium at **11:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 12:50 p.m.** and **1:30 p.m.** Tickets can be purchased for \$4 each for all ages.
- After maximum eclipse, *Pink Floyd’s Dark Side of the Moon Cosmic Light Show* will be presented in the Planetarium at **2:30 p.m.** and **3:30 p.m.** Tickets will be \$5 each.
- Throughout the afternoon enjoy music outdoors, watch livestreaming video of totality indoors, and make and take UV bracelets in the Cernan Center lobby.

“I urge everyone to come and join us at the Cernan Earth and Space Center to share this rare event,” said Foster.

For information about Triton College’s Cernan Earth and Space Center, visit <http://triton.edu/Cernan>.

For information all about solar and lunar eclipses, including interactive location maps, images, history and more, check out <http://triton.edu/Cernan/eclipse>.

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ABOUT TRITON COLLEGE

Triton College is an institution of higher education dedicated to student success. Triton offers more than 120 degree and certification programs, designed for students to realize their career aspirations and effectively compete in a global economy. The college campus spans 110-acres in River Grove, Ill., holds classes at satellite locations and offers online learning opportunities. Triton’s exemplary faculty and staff work to provide high quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities to more than 10,000 students each year. Triton College is a member of The Community Colleges of Illinois and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at triton.edu.