

July 31, 2016

Dean Jerry Miller
Career & Technical Education & Economic Development
Santa Rosa Junior College
1501 Mendocino Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

RE: Equine Science 151 (Introduction to Equine Acupressure and Massage)

Dear Dean Miller and Agriculture/Natural Resources Department Stakeholders:

We are grateful SRJC students who are writing to thank you, SRJC, and Professor Diana Thompson for helping us to learn about equine acupressure this summer.

It can't be easy coordinating horses, people, and equine acupressure lessons in the heat of summer--and yet SRJC, the Equine Science Program, and Professor Thompson have somehow managed to do so. Also, it was immediately evident that Professor Thompson possesses deep knowledge of equine acupressure; we recognize how privileged we were to be learning from a "master." Some of us are already finding that new career directions are opening up for us.

Something else that might not be immediately obvious was the diversity of our class in terms of age, ability, and skill. For example, some of us possess disabling conditions (e.g., orthopedic challenges, learning disabilities), and some of us are more skilled at handling horses than others. We therefore found it remarkable that Professor Thompson was able to keep us all engaged, involved, safe, and *learning* throughout our experience. She clearly modeled the Principles of Universal Design in her course. In fact, we view her to be a model teacher in her delivery of course content, as well.

As we conferred about our experience, the only suggestion one student had for possible improvement was this: "Horses and students would benefit from additional class lecture time and practical time in the arena." Although this idea of giving us all more class time may not be feasible, we hope the idea honors Professor Thompson's work. That is, it appears that some of her students did not want the course to conclude.

Please let us know if it would be helpful to have additional feedback in support of Equine Science 151, your program and/or of Professor Thompson's work; we view our experience in Equine Science 151 to have been personally and professionally transformative. Thank you again for making this valuable experience possible.

Sincerely,
Elyse Lord and Chelsa (Lindan) Hamilton, on behalf of Equine Science 151 class

CC: Dr. Mary Kay Rudolph, Professor Maxine Freitas, Diana Thompson, Sara Ely, Mary Destri, Danny Acosta, Jessica Saler, Juana Castanheira, Jane Winslow, Yara Goldreyer, Leilani Wirth-Martin, Jose Ibarra, Tracy Revel, Robby Revel