

Long Beach State Celebrates the Year of the Rabbit !

Students and faculty come together in celebration of the Lunar New Year with yummy food, games and live music.

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LONG BEACH Calif.- It's the year of the Rabbit! What does that mean for you? Longevity, positivity, cleverness and protection!

California State University Long Beach hosts a Lunar New Year Celebration at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden on Feb. 1 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. hosted by the East Asian Subcommittee of the International Education Committee.

If students and staff didn't have class during the time, they had the opportunity to register for this free event on campus.

“My intercultural communications teacher told me about this event so I decided to come check it out. I have also always wanted to come to our Japanese garden so it was a win-win. I have never been to a Lunar Year Celebration so I am super excited”, said student Savannah Mohatt.

When walking into the event the students and faculty had several options for activities.

However for most of the attendees, the first line that they stood in was for the food that they were giving out. They had options of pork and chicken dumplings, stir fried noodles mixed with vegetables, and greens. Who doesn't love an authentic Japanese meal while learning more about Japanese/Asian culture?

While enjoying a tasty snack the attendees were entertained with live music. Two students from the university performed classic Asian songs that were composed of 24 short poems. A beautiful sound that filled the guests with peace while enjoying the view of the Japanese garden.

“I saw the email and decided to come out and enjoy the celebration. I love learning about new cultures. I admire that the school hosted this especially after the Monterey Park shooting”, said student Jason Sandoval.

Some activities that the guests were able to do was take home some Japanese/Asian snacks and even get to see their name in Korean. They also had books displayed to learn more about Korean

culture. People were also able to paint by the pond and take cards home that had more information on minoring in Korean Language and Culture.

“The Beach is proud that almost 21 percent of students have Asian heritage. When we celebrate today our celebration is slightly moved by recent events 25 miles north in the city...the tragedy that unfolded in Monterey Park on Jan. 21 had above other things the need to support the AAPI community...”, said President of CSULB Jane Close Conoley.

Although the event was only two hours long, it was plenty of time to walk around the garden and learn more about the culture while bringing the school a little closer together to support Asian culture.

“I think this is a tremendous celebration of culture and the way the world should be, it’s a reflection of how we live in a world that is a rainbow of colors and celebrating what makes us different”, said event coordinator Sharyl Holtezman.