

CCA Board of Director's Report  
CTA Equity and Human Rights Conference 2017

Kristie A. Iwamoto  
CCA Women's Issues Director

The CTA Equity and Human Rights Conference was held on March 3-5 at the Fairmont San Jose. I attended the conference with fellow CCA board members Lynette Nyaggah, Fola Odebumni, Brad Reynolds, Ed Gomez, Elias Escamilla, Randa Wahbe, Patrick Mitchell, John Martin, Vincent Devlahovich, Jan Muto, and Dorothy Reina.

During Friday night's dinner reception, the keynote speaker was Matika Wilbur, who described her Native American photography project. She was a fun and engaging speaker. It was pleasure to hear her stories and see her art. She really made me understand the plight of Native people and the importance of their stories.

The sessions were all very valuable. On Saturday morning, I attended "Women and Power." The talked about the importance of power and the possible barriers that keep women from projecting it in the workplace. Often, societal conditioning makes us afraid that we will not be received well if we own our power and assert ourselves. The presentation, as well as the follow-up discussion, were very worthwhile.

I also attended the amazing two-part series, "Learning is NOT a One-Way Street," by presenters Lynette Nyaggah, Fola Odebumni and Ed Gomez. The first part was during Saturday afternoon, and the second part was Sunday morning. The three speakers, Fola,

Lynette and Ed, explained the danger of a single story. After a TED Talk video, they explained how the teaching of economics, linguistics, and history – respectively – can either perpetuate or prevent the one-sided story. Fola’s comparison of GDP versus HDI was enlightening. Lynette taught us sounds that are used in various languages, as well as the mind-boggling amount of languages that can co-exist on one continent. Ed passionately lectured on colonization and the differences between western and indigenous philosophy. It was an amazing series of experts lecturing on their fields.

Our EMAC team also got some great work done. We discussed our upcoming social justice day in May. Also, we reviewed our action plan and made some appropriate additions and changes.

Overall, it was a very productive conference, and I came away from it with a wealth of new knowledge.