

## CTA Equity and Human Rights Conference

March 3-5, 2017

Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, CA

REPORT FROM DOROTHY M. REINA

Of all the CTA Conferences I've attended, the EHR Conference is the best! I always learn something new about a variety of subjects, but also about myself. I am often challenged by what I hear...and this is a good thing!

The conference opened with an engaging key note speaker, Matika Wilbur, Photographer and Documentarian, who presented photos and stories of the many native peoples she has engaged with as a result of the oral history/photographic journal she is working on. She was delightful, full of energy, but also added some poignant moments, especially in the story of her nephew who was bullied for wearing his traditional braids.

I attended two sessions this weekend:

"Power, Privilege and Privatization," presented by Angela Us, Regional UniServ Staff – NOD and the two-part "Learning is NOT a One-Way Street," presented by CCA's Lynette Nyaggah, Fola Odebunmi, and Ed Gomez.

Both sessions were exceptional! The first session illustrated the ways in which power and privilege go hand-in-hand and why those in power, barons of industry who control the preponderance of the wealth in the U.S., stress privatization as a means of maintaining control of all "businesses," including education. Unfortunately, the materials used in the presentation were not uploaded to the CTA Go! App; however, Angela provided a link to the materials, which I hope to peruse as soon as time permits.

The second two-part presentation was extremely engaging and informative. I have never had a linguistics or economics class so I was fascinated by the information presented! I was familiar with GDP, but had never heard of HDI. As for linguistics, I learned a bit about the nuances of various dialects. I also had the opportunity, courtesy of Mario (from San Joaquin Delta College) to finally get the proper pronunciation of two names I struggle with: Araceli and Noemi. As for the History element of the presentation: I always learn something when Ed speaks about history! He is my History guru!

My recommendation is that Lynette, Fola, and Ed present their material at a CCA Conference, either at the Fall 2017 or Winter 2018 Conference!

The Sunday brunch featured a performance by the Sun Bollywood Dancers! These dancers ranged in age from 4 to 14. They were super!! What was even more delightful was seeing the faces of their families who were lined up along the wall during the performance. Many of our CTA members had the opportunity to join in the fun and have engage in learning a dance. This was a great ending to a fabulous conference!

I wish more of our board members would consider attending the CTA EHR Conference! There is so much good material presented and we could all benefit from these opportunities to learn more.

Submitted by Dorothy M. Reina