

## Report on NCHE/NEA Higher Education Conference

March 31, 2016 – April 3, 2016

Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina

The bad news: I first want to report on my experience at NCHE. In a nutshell, it was the most disorganized conference I have ever attended! From beginning (registration, both online and “check in” at the conference) to end (voting), there was no clearly stated directions nor did there seem to be a “plan” for voting, resulting in absolute chaos!

The great news: The NEA Higher Education Conference was amazing! The sessions offered were wonderful, which caused me some dismay as I could only attend one at any given time and there were several offered in the same time period that were of interest to me.

The sessions I attended included:

- 1) Why are There So Few of Us: Women of Color in Governance roles in Higher Education  
Summary: this was a qualitative study that addressed the challenges and successes faced by women of color. The information was presented by Noni M. Reis, CFA, San Jose State University, and clearly illustrated the dilemmas faced by women of color and the VERY minor strides achieved.

- 2) A Change is Gonna Come...Music that Roused Black America to Act

I enjoyed this journey from 1865 to the present and the impact music has had on labor organizing leading up to the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s and beyond. What was evident from this presentation is the change in focus from “We” to “I” and from hopefulness to a somewhat dismay/hopelessness on the part at present. The music of today illustrates there is no sense that “We Shall Overcome” but that there is an anger and dismay at the lack of progress towards change. This was very interesting and part of an ongoing study by three NEA Emerging Leaders.

- 3) Understanding and Developing Solutions to the Major Issues Affecting Women in Higher Education

This was an interactive discussion that addressed several main topics: Women in Higher Education, Campus Safety Issues, Women’s Health, and Domestic Violence. This was a terrific session and I plan to present it to the CCA Conference committee for consideration as a possible session at an upcoming conference! Our own Kristie Iwamoto was one of the presenters!

- 4) Diversity Workshop

Presented by Steven Pemberton, who happened to be the keynote speaker at the Friday night dinner. He was absolutely wonderful!! At both the session and during his keynote address, he engaged the audience with the telling of his story! I don't want to give away all that Steven shared with us because I am hoping we can invite him to be a presenter at a forthcoming CCA Conference.

In summary, the NEA Higher Education Conference was well worth attending.....NCHE, not so much.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy M. Reina, District K Director, CCA Board