

FFWPU USA: Establishing a CARP chapter at Harper Community College

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"We wanted to create something not just for our new friends, but for our brothers and sisters in our community," says Zaiya, a young Unificationist from Chicago who spearheaded a new CARP chapter at her alma mater.

After more than four years, efforts to establish a [CARP](#) chapter at Harper Community College in Schaumburg, Ill. finally paid off with its launch during the spring 2022 semester. Zaiya, now an alumnus of Harper, led a group of community members determined to bring CARP to the school's campus.

"CARP Harper was officially established in early February," says chapter president Shinya, a current student. "We hope to provide service work opportunities and host Divine Principle retreats this semester."

It's a long-awaited victory for Zaiya, who received unwavering [support](#) from the community, including Harper students and alumni, Chicago Pastor Kunihiro Sagisaka and his wife, and a dedicated core team. Inspired by her time on [STF Europe](#), Zaiya joined a few existing CARP chapters in Los Angeles and Las Vegas before deciding to create a local one.

"There were plenty of people in the community who attended Harper College, and we felt it was the perfect campus for CARP," she says. Over time, Zaiya and another alumnus found more people who wanted to develop a chapter. There were young people and parental figures alike from the Chicago community, as well as new students they met on the campus. "I couldn't have done it without them," says Zaiya, looking back on the group's journey.

The pandemic put a halt to the application process for student organizations on Harper's campus in 2020. Still, despite the challenge, the group consistently hosted online events and invited more people from the community to take on leadership roles. By fall 2021, the school reopened for in-person classes, and the search took off for a faculty member to become the CARP advisor.

"After taking time to pray about it, we were inspired to reach out to people from the department for international students, as CARP was attracting many international students," says Rosia, a CARP supporter. The group soon connected with the school's coordinator for international student services.

"She agreed to be the faculty advisor after discovering that there were no interfaith, non-denominational groups on campus," says Rosia. "Her only requirement was that she wanted to be involved in the club, and she has come to almost every CARP Talk so far."

For Zaiya, she is thankful for the personal commitment of the many people who bring this vision to life. "This is what CARP stands for," she says. "With its emphasis on relationships and faith, [CARP addresses] things that don't usually get taught in class."

You can learn more about CARP USA [here](#).



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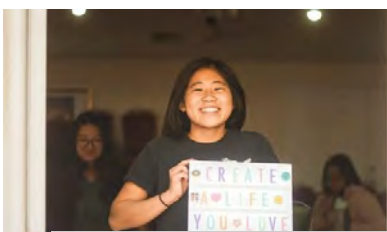


Before I hope to master the universe, I must first master myself.

— Sun Myung Moon



A movement of students by students





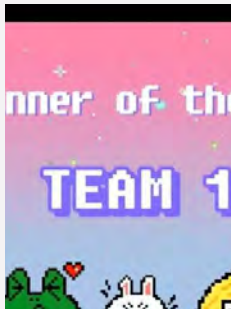
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**CARP**

Establishing CARP Chicago at Harper College

March 26, 2022 · news, newsfeed

Contributed by Rosia Schmidt, Zaiya Konno, Shinya Masuyama

Efforts for the establishment of CARP Harper started back in November 2017. CARP alumni Zaiya Konno returned to her home city of Chicago after some years on a faith-based leadership training program called [STF Europe](#); she had a desire to establish a positive environment for the youth in her local community to come together.



Zaiya joined a few established CARP chapters, particularly the ones in [Los Angeles](#) and [Las Vegas](#), to gain some experience. After that, she met with Harper College alumni Soogin Ogden, and they discussed how they can establish CARP on the local college campus. Neither were students there at the time, but as there were plenty of people in the community who attended Harper College, they felt it was the perfect campus for CARP. “We wanted to create something not just for our new friends but for our brothers and sisters in our community,” said Zaiya.

Throughout the semesters, Zaiya and Soogin found more and more people who wanted to support CARP. There were young people and parental figures from their [Family Federation](#) community of Chicago, and new students that they met on campus. Zaiya specifically thanked Soogin Ogden, Chung You, Sumika Yee, Shizuka Kato, Helena Moreno, Diego Moreno, and Eiko Horibe for their support; she said, “I couldn’t have done it without them.”

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They gathered all their necessary paperwork and sought to find a faculty member who would be willing to be their advisor. Finally, they found an enthusiastic professor and with his support, they turned in their official club application. However, before the scheduled meeting with the Student Council for final approval could take place, the pandemic hit, which put all application processes for student organizations on campus to a halt.

Despite this challenge, the students were determined. Even throughout the pandemic, they consistently hosted online events and invited more people in the community to step into leadership roles.



In Fall 2021, schools opened up for in-person classes once again. Their originally intended advisor was planning to retire so the students acted quickly. Harper student Shinya Masuyama, CARP supporter Mune Nakamura and Rosia Schmidt, determined to find a new advisor. After taking time to pray about it, they were inspired to reach out to people from the department for international students as CARP was attracting many international students. They ended up visiting one faculty member, Mrs. Jill Izumikawa, who is the coordinator for international student services.

The CARP representatives shared with her what CARP stood for—its values, its emphasis on relationships, and faith—things that usually don't get taught in class. They had a rich conversation, and the CARP members explained why they decided to join this club and

their personal commitment to its vision. After discovering that there were no interfaith, non-denominational groups on campus, she agreed to be the faculty advisor! The only requirement that Mrs. Izumikawa had was that she wanted to be involved in the club. She wasn't joking, as she has come to almost every CARP Talk so far.



From left to right: Sumika Yee, Shinya Masuyama, Rosia Schmidt, Mrs. Jill Izumikawa, Mune Nakamura, Jinil Fleischman

And, thus, CARP Harper was officially established in early February 2022. Their first and current chapter president is Shinya Masuyama. Their hope is to provide service work opportunities and host Divine Principle retreats, which they are planning this semester!



The establishment of CARP Harper College was an amalgamation of so many dedicated people. CARP Harper wants to extend their thanks to their local community pastor Rev. Hiro Sagisaka and his wife Maria for their consistent support, being in many meetings with them and praying for them to become an official club on campus. They would also like to thank many of the mother figures in the community. Congratulations to all the hands and hearts involved in establishing CARP Harper College, especially to their core team, Rosia Schmidt, Sotetsu Honda, Sumika Yee, Mune Nakamura, and Shinya Masuyama!



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God gives happiness to those who can give it to others.

-Rev. Sun Myung Moon

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