CARP Las Vegas' first Campus Talk on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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On November 8th, CARP Las Vegas held its first Campus Talk on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) campus. The vision for CARP Campus Talk is to create a space for university professors and staff to impart their wisdom to students, and to create a synergistic relationship between like-minded professors and students. Through this give and take of positive energy, our goal is to generate change and growth on our campus, and a shift in the campus culture to be more positive, interconnected, and empowering.

CARP students reached out to many students and professors leading up to the event, letting friends and friends of friends know about it. Many professors were inspired by the vision of the Campus Talk, and welcomed CARP students to speak during the first five minutes of class, inviting all the students in the class to attend. In total, more than thirty-three classes were visited by CARP students. Two professors were so inspired that they offered their classes extra credit to attend! Earlier in the day, CARP students performed live music and passed out flyers to advertise the event.

The theme for this Campus Talk was "Peace Starts with Me." It was inspired by the message given by CARP co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han when she spoke at a large interfaith rally this past July. The message was very close to the hearts of Las Vegans, who are still dealing with the emotional fallout of the tragic Mandalay Bay shooting the previous month. Each speaker was personally introduced by a student who shared a story of how he or she was touched by that person.

The first speaker described the plight of young people through the metaphor of classic Greek epic heroes. He told how we can grow through facing great challenge and pain, and shared his own personal story of loss and grief. He conveyed the importance of choosing to digest the pain in order to grow, rather than wallowing in despair.

The second speaker shared a moving story from his family history of what his ancestors had to go through, acknowledging the sacrifices that have been made for him to be alive. Then he shared his own story of going out of his way to break up a violent situation and change someone's life, emphasizing how we all can be aware of ways to make a difference.

The third speaker shared her testimony of how she turned her undergrad thesis into a project that has impacted UNLV for 22 years and counting. She shared that she wanted to give up so many times, but she realized that before she can expect anyone else to change, she has to be an example of change herself. Her story was a living example of the quote, "be the change you wish to see in the world."

The fourth speaker shared about how powerful it can be to honor and respect our differences and diversity, but yet to find a love and compassion that allows us to accept, embrace and collaborate with each other. She empowered all the students present to think of themselves as "the leaders of tomorrow," and to have the courage to love everyone and let peace begin from them.

One student who attended Campus Talk shared that he wished that more students could've heard about the event and shared in the inspiration and positivity. Another faculty member shared that he is excited for the future and for the possibility of collaboration with other student groups. Through that, we can spread the message of "Peace Starts with Me."

We'd like to thank everyone who came and who made this event possible. This is just one step towards creating greater peace and unity at UNLV and in our greater Las Vegas community!