

## **COMMENTS from 2018 Workshops & Author Dramatic Presentations**

### **COMMENTS: BRIDGE BUILDING TO EQUITY, Systems of Inequity & The Path to Healing Workshop, at Kinship Center, Salinas, CA on October 16, 2018.**

“I enjoyed the training! Working as a group with professionals from various agencies was very refreshing. Having the opportunity to learn about our history and where the Systemic oppression is rooted from, really forms a solid structure for the foundation of change.” MTJD

“You [LaVerne] have a wonderful way of presenting sensitive topics in a manner that is respectful and lively.” MH

“I really enjoyed the energy and the way we interacted with each other. The speaker was very powerful and I enjoyed the presentation/workshop a lot.”

“Visual aids and activities were great.”

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### **COMMENTS: BRIDGE BUILDING TO EQUITY, A Cultural Diversity & Equity Training Workshop, at Kinship Center, Salinas, CA on March 20, 2018.**

Excellent topics, personable trainer, loved the challenges of the group activities.

I thought this was a fun and insightful training. It is well thought out and the presenter and her team are friendly and knowledgeable. J.A.

Very creative; Good on covering objectives. C.

Creative approach to discussing real issues around diversity and equity. Thanks!

Lovely, gentle, diplomatic presentation. S.B

Great pertinent information that will help me improve my skills in working with clients and in my personal life.

This was an experiential and unconventional workshop that was very different and refreshing from other trainings. CF

She had everyone feel a part of the training.H.

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**STAFF COMMENTS: DRAMATIC AUTHOR PRESENTATION HELD AT MISSION PARK SCHOOL IN SALINAS, CA ON 1/16/18**

Awesome presentation of the bus scene. My students were very captivated. It was a great opener for further discussion. Gabriella Perez

She was awesome! I enjoyed the interactive component of the presentation. The slideshow was very powerful and thought-provoking. The kids found this very engaging.

I believe the overall message of the presentation was unforgettable because of the level of engagement. Krysta Bradley

Room 14 enjoyed your presentation. We all learned that through children's eyes we see our world differently. Lisa Ingle

Mrs. McLeod's presentation was engaging and educational. The students learned about Martin Luther King and the challenges he and black Americans faced during this era. Wonderful presentation! Denelle Bassetti

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**COMMENTS: Some In-House Comments to sum up the confidential experience of staff attending Bridge Building to Equity Workshop at Pacific Valley School, Big Sur Unified School District, held on January 12, 2018.**

LaVerne led a wonderful, engaging workshop that got us all thinking and challenging old unconscious beliefs. It was a valuable, inspiring presentation. Ellen

Soul-searching, beautifully presented. K.B.

Overall, everything was wonderful! LaVerne is full of so much love and positivity! CB

The topics discussed are useful to promote equality and diversity in our society. U

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**CalRTA (Retired Teachers Association-Santa Clara-Division 6) 2/16/18 a few Comments-**

There was an excessive number of verbal comments from retired teacher relaying their experience since they lived during the Civil Rights Movement in America. Here are a few who write comments:

When I moved to California, I experienced racism. Once, I was to catch a bus and the bus driver only looked at me as a "Mexican." He closed the door and left me standing there. Leonard Robledo

In Middle School my simulations on brown eyes and hunger had students writing about issues of discrimination and fairness. They got it!

As a freshman in High School, I had to take my grandma to El Paso, Texas. On the way back I sat in the back of the Greyhound bus with a black family. Later I found out that they had to sit in the back of the bus. I had first-hand experience of this injustice. Roman

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**Seaside High School students (Seniors) –Some Comments 2/7/2018-** Based on the quality of determination of the protagonist in the novel, *Corn Hollow*, students ended the presentation with an in-depth look at their prospective futures that they were determined to undertake, here are a few of their declarations:

I am determined to graduate as a nurse to make my family proud and I will not let my citizenship status to ever stand in the way of what I want to do and will rise above it. I will not let anyone bring my hopes down or affect my goals.

I am an artist. I want to make a career doing what I love. I will go to college and learn technical art then paint in my own style.

I will become an EMT!!! Pass the NREMT exam, study and take classes. And I will never give up.

Coming from a hard background, I am determined to be the first person to go and graduate college with a BSN/MSN in Nursing and become successful. I will get into a college of nursing program and study hard and get involved in the medical field.

I will go to CSU and I will be an Olympic wrestler.

I will first graduate high school go to college, and I will do what must be done.

I plan to be an entrepreneur in the future- go to college, major in finance and invest more.

I plan on being the best entrepreneur in the world in the future- go to college, start my software company, invest more, and prove it by creating more and better technology for the world.

I am determined to go into pre-med and become a doctor so that I can help those in need and provide a better future for my family. This will be done in 3-steps: go to college, get accepted into medical school, and get my credentials.

My plan is to pursue my medical career and to learn three different languages. The three steps I will take are simple. Of course, I will attend school, but I'll dedicate more of my free time to learn. I just have to start.

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**MONTEREY MUSEUM OF ART- Lecture Series- LaVerne McLeod one of the 3 honoree speakers for: "Women Who Have Made a Difference in the Creative Arts"-audience comments, 2/5/18:**

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A graceful and thought-provoking demonstration of the awareness of discrimination.

Thank you LaVerne for opening my eyes to history in such a profound and gentle way. This is important work you are doing, especially at this time. Kay Cline

LaVerne-*Corn Hollow* and your dramatic presentation based on an episode in the book, will continue to open eyes and hearts to a world of injustice many remain blind to, and to the nobility of emerging from that with dignity and grace; to empower others to rise above our narrow perspectives to see the good in all people, to do with what we can to make this a better world. Jean

LaVerne's enactment of Corn Hollow was very moving. The audience participation aspect really brought forward the feelings of what it means to live in a segregated world. I was especially moved when we sang the two protest songs. I felt connected to the deep meaning of the Civil Rights Movement.

Powerful presentation to bring empathy to a visceral experience on the impact of group mind of hatred and prejudice. We can also feel the difference when we stood and sang resistance songs together- how we can gather strength and transform.

Wonderful presentation. You made me feel comfortable which kept me open to listen and learn. Thank You.

You gave a great speech and your dramatic presentation play was wonderful. My grandmother was in Arkansas in the 1940's and sat in the back of the bus with the black people and I am very proud of her. Lisa McGrath

You make me aware of how far we have gone and that we have so much to learn. Thank you so much. Victor Mario

I want to say thank you for your bravery for keeping a dialogue open and awareness about this topic that I believe everyone should learn more about. Such a powerful presentation. We need more people like you to spread love and joy in an open atmosphere. Dianna Shea O'Briant

The most important thing we can do for one another is to gift a view into each other's lives so that we might know each other's experiences and truths.

Thank you for helping to move me. So true that the victims of abuse are least able to act for themselves- so important for others to lend a hand. Change will come with the acknowledgement of privilege. All of us have privileges, some more than others. It is important to recognize your privileges and advocate for others that are under-represented. AP

