

**COMMENTS: TEDxSJSU (San Jose State University) talk given by LaVerne McLeod  
9/25/18. TEDx YouTube released it for viewing January 28, 2019.**

\*LaVerne you are very courageous and dedicated- you walk your talk and live a life integrated with your values of integration and peace. The strength of your voice and clarity of message is so important. The seeds you water with love will be the ones that will flourish. I am so delighted to know you from Wholehearted Chorus with your stunning voice, full heart and passion. I love it that you shared about your integrated family as well as your garden metaphors. Elizabeth Murray

\*LaVerne, thank you for sharing your personal stories and for expressing the harm inflicted by the overt and the subtle forms of racism you've encountered since your childhood days. You offer a new beginning with a powerful visualization to encourage healthy racial identity in our communities. I hope this TEDx Talk is shared and viewed widely. Catherine Crockett

\*Powerful! Thank You LaVerne for the Courage to share your history and experience with racial identity. Your experiences are incredibly relevant in our current times and we need to band together breaking ground and planting seeds of 'whole' community. I am grateful to know you and even more grateful you are part of our community. This was a fabulous presentation and your passion and humility is contagious. Thank You for your dedication to creating unity and equality for us all. Monica Eastway

\* What a heartfelt description of your journey in life, how it formed you, and your dedication and game plan for making the world a more just place than it was when you were a child and even now. Thanks for the insights from your personal experience. Great job!! Connie McCoy

\*An undeniably authentic presentation, the pauses and pacing of delivery giving space for the impact of your stories to settle in. I love the analogy of the earthworms transforming garbage and toxicity into nutrients for new seeds, the attitude of ONE HUMANITY!  
Clearly, you invested your heart into a brilliant presentation, ultimately an invitation to a long overdue change. I pray momentum will build for it to be heard and embraced!  
Vivian Danzer

\*Beautifully done, LaVerne! Your presentation was so powerful and poised and poignant. So much of your heart and spirit showed up in the artistic choices you made to convey your story and evoke empowerment from the audience. Deeply personal and very professional too. Thank you for sharing this ~ I've been looking forward to it! Kudos and Gratitude for the work you are doing! Love, Ellie K.

\*Simply astonishing LaVerne! Your speech is a reminder of how far we've come and the importance of continuing our work. Jared K. thank you for working with me over the past couple of years to help me comprehend the social justice movement in context which is now allowing me to better understand the nuances brought up in speeches like the one below. Neeraj Singh

\*Nice. Solid. Deep. Demanding. ---- Now, THAT's commanding respect. Thank you for being you, and persisting. Nicole Ludwig

\*Amazing presentation! Powerful subject matter. Let's all plant the seeds! Well done! Alicia King

\*Thank you, LaVerne. You're a great public speaker with great content. B.

\*Thank you so much for sending your TEDX talk -- very powerful and well presented. Your expression, description and presence added so much to bringing the experiences of being Southern-born. I know discrimination exists throughout the world by being raised in the South myself. I witnessed and was somewhat of a perpetrator myself. That came from one side of my family which had been divided by religion, politics and racism. The paternal side was open, kind and considerate and pro-active. Our school was not integrated until I was a senior in high school. The only way to break through and open hearts and minds is through presentations such as yours. You nailed it -- awesome. Faye Baker

\*Congratulations are your success at spreading your values of integration! I hope people will follow up by reading your book: Corn Hollow. Marilyn Vassallo

\*I watched it and you are wonderful! I love your slow controlled movements and letting your voice put the emotion into what you are saying. Bravo - well done!! Jaci

\*Thanks for sending your TED Talk performance to me. I thoroughly enjoyed & respected it. You were positively engaging. You were very poised. Professional. Poignant. Pleasant to watch. Proud to know you. What a delight. Harry H.

"It was what is needed to be said. a lot of people need to hear it. I could tell you practiced very well." SL

"It brought up guilt for me as some way I feel I may have been a part of causing the pain. Your analogy of the ground and the composting made it clear about how you and someone who has experienced such, can be so personal." JK