

End of the Semester Family Celebration



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To conclude the Fall semester of 2018, CARP Las Vegas held their annual End of Semester Party. Family members and relatives of CARP were invited to join in the celebration of the semester's victories and successes.

Attendees came in with their favorite dish from their native background, making it a diverse potluck dinner. As the families settled in, the emcees, Kailey Teo and Ryota Naito, presidents of CARP chapters at UNLV and CSN respectively, welcomed everyone to the evening program.

As people enjoyed their meals, the CARP Las Vegas band performed the song "One Day" by Matisyahu. Afterward, there was a video presentation that showcased highlights of the semester, including some of CARP's national and international works. The emcees then continued with a presentation to explain some of the events that were displayed in the video and to further explain in detail the events that CARP hosts. Some of those major events included the summer Hyo Jeong trip and the Campus Talks.

To present a more personal story of how CARP has impacted lives, a few participants shared their testimony for the semester. Testimonials were given by Michelle Benway and her parents, Marcus Fuller Jr., Sydney Spain, and the CARP UNLV advisor Dr. Jason Wasden. It was beautiful to have a variety of voices attest to

the transformation that CARP has provided for many people. Mr. and Mrs. Benway was so grateful to know Michelle was in the right place. Sydney's grandmother was initially negative about CARP because of the media, however, by the end of the program, she was moved and felt at ease that Sydney was with a group of people who truly cared about her.

The night came to a close with a few prizes that were graciously donated by some close friends of CARP. The winners were happy to receive their poinsettias, candy cane jars, waffle makers, and more. Finally, everyone stood for one last activity of singing, "Feliz Navidad" in a big circle.

The program officially closed with a big group photo. Many people stayed to get their pictures at the photo booth, and also just to mingle with other people. Mothers got together with other mothers, people of different nationalities came together, and school mates made camaraderie with one another. All in all, the celebration happily brought families together and ended the year with joy and gratitude.

