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Fishbowl Reflection

After listening to the Fishbowl on Wednesday, October 28th with Regina Malveaux, I left feeling a little confused about my role as a leader. While she started the interview off well by discussing her success in YWCA along with her current role as director of the Washington Women's Commission, things went downhill from there. Throughout the meeting, we were encouraged to ask questions in the chat window to be answered by Regina. One of the questions that were asked to her was 'how she talks with people who are outside her bubble'. I thought this was a great question to ask, but her answer rubbed me the wrong way. I am going to abbreviate her answer for the sake of this reflection, but basically, she answered by saying she does not engage in discussion with people outside of her bubble. I do not believe this was a valid answer as a leader will naturally cross paths with people they disagree with and not engaging in discussion purely because one disagrees with another's principle is not acceptable in my eyes. In addition, this completely stray's away from our "out of the box" concept we've been discussing in class. Refusing to engage in discussion with people holding different views means you are staying "in the box". As we learned from our class readings, leaders who deliberately put themselves out of the box tend to be the most successful of leaders.

Regardless of this individual Fishbowl speaker, I still believe Fishbowl is beneficial to CLP students. Not only does it allow us to hear from a diverse set of leaders throughout our community, but it brings all four years of CLP peers together in one room, even though this year

it was held virtually. Hearing from Fishbowl speakers is a great opportunity to reflect on my own style of leadership and where I aim to be in the future. I think it is also very beneficial to hear from people of such diverse careers. Hearing from somebody in the tech sector, housing division, investment organizations, etc. provides very different viewpoints that we can benefit from. It would be interesting if some of our Fishbowl speakers could talk about aspects we are currently learning in our classes, such as “The Box” and thinking surrounding it. While they may not have read the same books we have, I would like to hear their interpretation of the meaning behind the phrase and how they utilize that in their leadership roles.

Overall, I appreciate the Fishbowl concept and look forward to the opportunities with community leaders. Although Regina did not put a good impression on me, I am grateful for the time she took out of her day to engage with us in meaningful discussion. I’d also like to say that not everything she said rubbed me the wrong way as I did like some of what she had to say, but based on what I heard I do not think I would invite her back to public speak again. I hope our next Fishbowl speaker is a little more open-minded than Regina was and leaves a better impression on me.