

GERI Workshop: Illuman Participant Testimonials

The following comments are from Illuman men who attended a four-day workshop co-sponsored by Illuman and Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI) at Ghost Ranch in August 2019.

"After attending the GERI workshop at Ghost Ranch in August, it is clear to me that the work of Illuman must ultimately expand beyond the necessary and essential stage of "men transforming men" to include inner work in the presence of and with women. The GERI workshop, developed over 27 years, offers a unique and effective process for just this kind of work, so crucial to dissolving the toxic patriarchy that damages us all and the earth that sustains us."

—Glenn Siegel

"I found the GERI experience a deeply healing event. I saw the power of story and deep listening transform the understanding of what it means to be male and female. The opportunity to sit in mixed gender circles and be vulnerable was very informative to my soul. The ceremony and group activities touched my heart and gave me hope. I would highly recommend the experience for any human being interested in being fully in connected with the divine duality of our Creator."

—Brad Kuluris

"I went to the GERI event not knowing exactly what I was getting into. I can wholeheartedly say that as men we need to do this work. It is so powerful to do work that is similar to what we do in our Illuman chapters, but in the company of women. It is like men's work on steroids. GERI has designed a gentle and experiential program with lots of opportunity to share, hardly any lecture. I learned how close to the surface and how pervasive our wounds are as women and men. I would gladly do this again."

—Seth Burgess

"The GERI experience was truly an ILLUMAN kind of experience, minus the drums and with women! The universe itself conspired to enrich this profound five-day retreat. Thunder, Raven, and Mountain presented her/himself with sensuous and vigorous omnipresence. My commitment to a more equitable world amongst the gender spectrum got a new shot in the arm."

—Giovanni Perez

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—Charles Myking

"For me, the GERI gender-equity training was eye-opening as well as heart-opening. The well-presented exercises took us deep into both male and female histories in a way that was challenging and expansive. I learned and felt a great deal about others' experiences and opened into and felt my own experiences in a profound way as well. The result for me was connection and healing, both internally and externally."

—Phil Rogacki

"The GERI experience was profound! Gender equality is not just about equal opportunity, although that's very important; it's about healing the wounds inflicted as a result of gender injustice that is prevalent in our culture. It can't be done by women doing their work and men doing theirs. This wounding requires men and women to come together, to speak their truth, to listen, to open their hearts, to transform."

—Tim Callan

"Wonderful experience to open deep dialogue among the genders within a safe container."

—Terrell Piechowski

"Essential work for any man on the Journey of Illumination! GERI offers us the opportunity to experience the masculine journey in ways that simply cannot be done in single-gender groups. Hope-giving, life-affirming work!"

—Jonathan Miller