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Title: Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney Interview  
Narrator: Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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**<Begin Segment 10>**

HK:

But like that professor or that teacher, she was my favorite teacher in high school. Like very much like that-teacher-who-changes-you. Like she was that for me, she was one of the most loving and compassionate and warm people, and basically it was because of her and her warmth and like loving taking that class with her that I decided I was going to do Asian Studies, which brought me out to the west coast because I was like, I've got to go where Asian people are. I had no intention of learning Japanese American history. I was like, I'm here to like learn about Asia, not Asian American. So I went out there and I, yeah. And everything changed when I went out there because I started seeing myself being reflected everywhere, whether it was interracial couples, um, children who looked like me when I was a kid. Um, yeah. And I took an Asian studies class, um, it was called "The Asian American Experience." We learned about Filipino, Chinese, and Japanese Americans and that's actually how I met the Cordovas was through that class. I did an internship at the Filipino society and everything changed. And I think like I was a sophomore in college when I changed my major and yeah, everything changed. Um, I actually changed it to, they didn't have Asian American studies, but they had - I could do African American studies. And I think for me, I just wanted to learn about people of color, period. And that was part of the reason why I did ethnic studies. I just wanted to learn about people of color in America. Like, cause I didn't have that growing up. And I think like what was so powerful about African American Studies, specifically African American history, the classes I took, was like know your history, know who you are, know your community. And like that's how you can heal, that idea of Sankofa of like we understand the past in order to like understand the present and have a future very much like circular time. And, um, and then the also that the saying of everything we do is for the next 7 generations or everything we do is for 14 generations because the past and present for like, um, I hate saying "Native American sayings" cause I don't know

what tribe that saying is from but - Native American saying. But um, yeah just that idea of knowing your past and so all of these courses and all of these things helped get me out into the community. Cause I think for me, I was just intellectualizing everything. I was just in school, but like these courses really politicized me. And there was this group on campus, the multicultural affairs office, and they had a students of color retreat that said mixed people are welcome. Cause I was like, well I'm not a person of color but I'm mixed so I guess I can go. I hope they like me. And so I went and that's where I became politicized too was my sophomore year of college. And then through that retreat and all these classes I was taking sophomore year, that's what got me out into the community. So don't worry, it all connects.

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