



Blind Sighted

See To Win

Charlie Collins Keynote Speaking Engagement:

Testimonies from Attendees at Keynote Event

Charlie's talk gave us a glimpse into what his life has been like with a visual impairment. It was interesting to listen to the situations and opportunities that have brought him to where he is today. He instilled in us, in that hour, that legally blind does not mean incapable. People who are visually impaired are capable of many things, but it is all about how you deal with the situations that you are dealt with. This goes for people who are not visually impaired too. You can either give up or accept the facts and choose to keep going. Overall, the talk was very inspiring.

- Eleanor C

Charlie Collins was probably one of the most interesting people I've ever had the opportunity of listening to. It baffles me that someone so interesting and so inspiring came from my neck of the woods. He was born in Waterbury, which is where I was raised and still live today, and he currently lives in Cheshire, a town I've been visiting frequently since I was a kid and still do to this day. Sometimes you don't know what to expect from a guest lecture, but for ASD this semester, the

two guest speakers we've had were both extremely inspiring and just beautiful people. The talk was insightful, and although I haven't been through the same things Charlie has been through, I think everyone in some way can relate to his journey with overcoming feelings of inadequacy and being stuck in a cycle of negative self talk. I bought his book recently and although I'm a slow reader, the few pages I've cracked open in my free time so far have been really engaging, I'm so excited to start reading through the rest. Also, fun fact, while I was waiting for his book to arrive I mentioned this guest speaker to my boyfriend because I was so excited to receive it in the mail and just overall really liked Charlie as a person, and my boyfriend has met him before! Small world.

-Stephanie C

Charlie's talk was extremely engaging and very informative about his experience navigating life with a visual impairment. Hearing about his life and how he has managed to overcome obstacles, both internal and external, was truly inspiring.

- Marissa D.

I found Charlie to be very inspiring as he shared his life being blind. He showed us despite the challenges he faced he overcame many things and although he had some bumps in the road, it didn't stop him from achieving great things. He was very eye opening especially when speaking about how the only problem is us and the way we can grow and change is to push ourselves out of our comfort zone, which he

has done multiple times. I very much enjoyed how engaged he was in the class and he provided great laughter, therefore I hope you bring him in again for future cohorts to hear his message.

- Meghan G.

I think Charlie was an amazing speaker - he was funny as well as gave a good message. He did a good job at keeping the class engaged and focused throughout. He shared such an inspiring story and brought great energy to our class. I also thought it was cool how he brought in some of the different tools he uses and explained to us how they worked.

- Avery H.

Charlie was honest, relatable, and engaging when speaking to my class. He opened up about his life experiences and didn't sugar coat anything. This was so inspiring and emphasized the importance of perseverance, I learned so much from him!

- Kelsey H.

I thoroughly enjoyed Charlie Collins' discussion with our cohort, he was engaging and personable. He made us go through all of the emotions while listening to him talk, making all of us in awe over what he was talking about. I know we all would enjoy it if he came back for another visit!

-Lilyana M.

Charlie was endearing, entertaining, and really inspiring. I appreciated his honesty surrounding his exceptionality and the powerful way in which he delivered his talk to us. He really tried to connect with his audience and he inspired me (and I know some of my peers as well) to purchase his book and learn more.

-Julia N.

I think the talk was really good! very interactive and easy to pay attention too. I loved that he made visual impairment situations relatable even for those who do not have visual impairments. I would say the only feedback is because we are a small group it would have been cool to get hands on experience with some of the equipment he showed us, but I am aware a lot of it is expensive so that isn't always plausible.

-Colleen P.