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International Visitor Program 2004

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I had been in the United States prior to the my IVLP by my own and because of my job and graduate program at the University of Arizona.

My home town is close to Arizona and I have relatives and friends living in Arizona which I and my siblings visit them very often. Also, for my graduate programs –Master Degree and Ph.D.- I decided to apply at the University of Arizona from where I graduated in 2010 and 2014 so I lived in Tucson those years and returned back home in Hermosillo.

My current job, as International Affairs Officer of the State of Sonora makes me to travel to the United States very often. I have been in Washington, D.C, Los Angeles, California; Philadelphia, New Orleans, Chicago, Phoenix, Flagstaff, Carson City, Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

The cities I visited during the program in 2004 where:

1. Washington, D.C. where we spent 10 days and we had the opportunity to meet women from the US State Department, Georgetown University, George Hopkins University, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Small Business Administration, National Women´s Business Council, The League of Women´s Voters, U.S. Department of Labor, National Democratic, Institute, Women and Politics Institute among several visits to the great museums and city attractions.
2. Seattle, WA where we met women from Asian communities as Chaya, Business Women Leaders from the Community Capital Development Office as well as the Women´s Business Exchange Agency and the Seattle City Attorney´s Officer. As an educator I had the opportunity to visit the Seattle Girl´s School where I learnt about the critical thinking teaching methodology.
3. Houston, TX where we met Hispanic Women leaders, University Professors and teachers from private schools. I keep special memories of the day I spent with Margaret Downing from the Houston Press. This special experience made me think about the women´s impact in press and she impacted me and I had followed her by media.
4. Rochester, NY where we had the historical background perspective of Women´s Rights.
5. Niagara Falls. The most beautiful scene I have ever seen.
6. New York City. The visit to the United Nations Charter Division for the Advancement of Woman (DAW) grounded us in the vision of equality.

I have been following my partner Iraida Villasmil from Venezuela. She has been an activist and party leader at her country against Chávez and Maduro. She became legislator at her Province State Zulia where she has become an important lawyer.

I am so grateful for being part of this program and I am still working in some approaches I learnt form it.