



FEDOUA BOUHOU

President at L'Auberge Jeunesse

Fedoua is an IVLP alumna from Morocco who participated in the Women in Politics and Civil Society program in August 2019. During the program, she met with the Office of Diana DeGette, Colorado Black Women for Political Action, IGNITE Colorado, Women's Lobby of Colorado, the CO Federation of Republican Women, and Denver Metro Young Republicans. She also participated in excursions to Rocky Mountain National Park and a tour of the State Capital, in addition to a WorldDinner at the home of a local family.

“I had a chance to exchange with state women leaders in politics in the two parties (Democrat and Republican) as a part of civil society NGOs. I have seen how women’s leadership in State Government works and how NGOs create initiatives around equality of gender, human rights, immigrants, minorities, education, healthcare, etc. The program by WorldDenver had a perfect balance of remaining official and having free time for visiting downtown and cultural spaces. I also got to visit with some Moroccan friends. I enjoyed the cultural excursions (such as Rocky Mountain National Park), and as a Muslima I will never forget the opportunity to celebrate Eid Al Adha in Islamic Center, or the home hospitality with Ms. Jamie Torres and Ms. Jaime T. Aguilar. They were so kind and prepared Halal plates for us. We shared a wonderful time together in their garden discussing and having fun. I discovered we have similar lives, a similar climate, and similar geographic sites. All of the excursions in Denver were fun, whether they were part of the IVLP program or my own explorations around town. Between the streets, parks, and markets, I directly discovered other aspects of U.S. popular culture, which are firmly entrenched in my mind. I returned to my country with the remnants of a culture that has peaceful coexistence and respect for others, regardless of their gender, color, creed, or language. Denver is a city that radiates a culture of coexistence and promoting human values. I felt at home in Denver.”

– **FEDOUA BOUHOU**