Dennis is an IVLP alumnus from India who participated in the Countering Violent Extremism - Media and Messaging Strategies program in March 2019. His program met with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, CELL, OIIA, the Community College of Aurora, the Columbine Memorial Foundation, G.R.I.D., and Street Fraternity. They also has a cultural mountain excursion, had a WorldDinner with a local family, and watched the G.R.E.A.T. Graduation ceremony at Oakland Elementary school.
"It was from March 12 to 17, 2019 that I visited Denver as part of my IVLP trip, one that I can never forget and will always remain one of the best experiences of my life.

Though barely five days, the Denver leg of the nearly one month program was unforgettable for the way it started. Soon after we checked into the Holiday Inn Express, Downtown Denver, a severe snowstorm hit Colorado. Later called the March 2019 North American Blizzard, the storm kept us in the hotel for most part of the next two days. For me, coming from a tropical region in India where the temperatures rarely go below 86 degrees Fahrenheit, the sight of snow itself was a first. And that it came as a blizzard!

Our visits to the Columbine Memorial, the evening stroll through the 16th Street Mall, and that unforgettable trek along the Trading Post Trail after spending some time at the Red Rocks Amphitheater, not to forget the visit to Buffalo Bill memorial, about which I had read so much - all made Denver a chapter close to my heart.

And yes, we also got to visit a Christian Dior exhibition that was going on at the Denver Art Museum!

Denver, you beauty. Some day... I hope to visit again."

- DENNIS MARCUS MATHEW