

Remarks from former Open Door student, Sarahi Gutierrez

At the June 2023 AAUW Longmont Spring Fling

Hello everyone! My name is Sarahi Gutierrez, and I am excited to have the opportunity to share my story with you. As a Latina woman, mother, wife, engineer, and student, my journey has been one of perseverance, dedication, and constant learning.

Nine years ago, I left my home in Venezuela with my husband and my son and immigrated to the United States. We arrived full of hopes and dreams, but also very basic English. This was our first obstacle, which I faced bravely. I started taking English courses in Longmont and later continued my studies at Open Door School. Here, I not only improved my English, but also learned about American culture, made friends, and improved my public speaking skills in English.

Once I felt more confident expressing myself in the language, I threw myself into looking for better job opportunities. I was successful and obtained a better position in the company I was working for. A few years later, I applied and got a position in Human Resources at the University of Colorado, where I worked for three years. It was an outstanding experience.

But I didn't stop there. I had another goal in mind: to earn a master's degree. So, during the pandemic, I started studying for a Master's in Organizational Leadership at the University of Colorado. The language barrier was a constant challenge, but with each difficulty, my determination grew stronger.

While I was working and studying at the University of Colorado, I decided to look for opportunities in the field of quality engineering. I was accepted as a Quality Engineer at Medtronic, a global medical device company. Less than two years later, I graduated with my master's degree.

Today, I feel proud of what I have achieved. Not only have I obtained my master's degree and am working in the field I love, but I also have a beautiful family that supported me all the way. I am grateful to Open Door for helping me overcome my fears of speaking English and for pushing me to fight for my dreams.

If there is something I want you to take from my story, it is that nothing is impossible. Despite obstacles and difficulties, we can achieve our dreams. To all the women listening, I want to say: believe in yourself. Do not be afraid to face new challenges and to continue learning. If I could do it, so can you.

Never forget that you are strong, capable, and deserve to achieve each and every one of your dreams. There will always be challenges and difficulties, but these are what make us stronger.

Thank you for your time and for letting me share my story with you!