

Telling Our EOP Stories

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Educational Opportunity Program



Anything Is Possible

by Linda Vang

“Dream big, work hard and stay humble,” is the motto that drove EOP student, Donna S. Martinez, to travel abroad. She was able to witness the kind of beauty one can only imagine as her plane glided across the world. Her adventure overseas to Europe took her to Malaga, Spain then to Paris, France and eventually to the cities of Rome and Venice in Italy. Donna also received the opportunity to visit the city of Morocco in Africa. Her travels have truly provided an experience of a lifetime.

A senior at Fresno State, Donna is the coordinator of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and also serves as the president of the California State Spanish Association on campus. Donna entered Fresno State as a freshman in 2006, but she knew all along her goal in studying abroad and this past summer was able to achieve that goal. Donna and other students studied at Universidad Mediteranea and earned 3 units for completing Spanish 125 (Hispanic Culture) under Fresno State professor Dr. Isolina Sands. Donna’s learning experiences expanded beyond the classroom where all students were given the opportunity to actually experience the Spaniard lifestyle, such as exposure to common Spanish dishes and daily activities. They also had the occasion of spending a weekend in Morocco, Africa where Donna gowned in traditional Moroccan female clothing and came into contact with the Moroccan culture. When school ended 3 weeks later, Donna did not return home with her classmates. Instead, she booked a plane to Paris which was the first destination of her extraordinary journey. “I was so amazed that I did it. Not only did I do it, but I did it all by myself.” Donna took independence to a whole new level as she journeyed her way through the cities of Paris, Rome, and Venice experiencing the richness of each culture, getting a taste of exotic cuisines, and making friends from different parts of the world.

Donna stated that although her goal has always been to expand her knowledge and experience a world outside of her own, she wanted to be a good example for her younger siblings. Donna said “You are the knowledge that you have, the backgrounds that you come from, and the experiences you create.” Donna wants to encourage everyone to explore what the world has to offer, find and create precious memories, and travel and indulge in the cultures around them.

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