

IMPRESSIONS FROM THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

ILENE K. GABOURY, SEATTLE

This was my very first time attending a young women's conference at the FNCC, and my experience helped me realize how global Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism is. I had the benefit of being a facilitator for one of the small group discussions. Not only were there young women from across the nation in the group, but also from Venezuela and Panama. It really touched my heart to meet members from all around the world practicing the Daishonin's Buddhism, and that we are all on the same path fighting with SGI President Ikeda's spirit for kosen-rufu. I had one of the greatest experiences at the FNCC and I look forward to next year's conference.

CHELSEA PARKHURST, SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

The young women at the conference encouraged me so much. There were many talented, amazing women who have overcome great obstacles with honesty and courage. They shared their stories of pain, depression, low self-esteem and suffering, and how, through this practice, they have grown into beautiful flowers of wisdom. SGI-USA Women's Leader Matilda Buck encouraged me with her personal experiences and openness. Being at the FNCC with my sisters in faith has touched me so deeply. I can't wait to come back!

TAEKO KATO, RENO, NEV.

I went to the FNCC because I was looking for encouragement or something that would make me happy. I have been feeling down for awhile and I was frustrated because I didn't know why. Through this conference, I learned that it was my lack of compassion that made me arrogant, selfish and unhappy. From now on, I am determined to change my perspective 180 degrees to be able to have unconditional compassion for everyone I meet, because this is the only way to be truly happy.