

"Sun Devil" by Surendra Shakya

When I missed my flight from Dallas due to a mistaken time difference, I was forced to spend my night at the airport. That missed flight turned out to be life transforming. Suddenly I became aware of the vibrancy, wealth and positive vibes all around me. The airport was alive, even at night. The carpet was spongy, and everything spelled abundance. "Why is Nepal not like this?" I wondered, and vowed that I would find out.

In this quest, I changed my major to journalism so that I could become a good investigative researcher. Liberal arts education gave me the opportunity to take courses in US history and government, which gave me insight into the cultural DNA of the great land, and a deeper understanding of its constitutional provisions: right to assemble, freedom of speech, separation of church and the state, right to privacy, due process of law, etc. After a *summa cum laude* graduation handshake from Laura Bush, my graduate studies focused on political science. At Arizona State University, I became a "Sun Devil" bathing in the light of world class education. I watched great masters in action and learned voraciously.

Higher education in the USA is truly world class. The constant nurturing in an international milieu turned me into a confident, self-assured and daring individual. The best things I found in US education that have been instilled in me are: a "can-do" attitude, a "never-quit" determination and a grand vision to change the world -- and, all this at no cost to me because of generous financial support.

