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### Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching

Attending the AAAL 2025 Conference in Denver, CO was an enriching and productive experience that allowed me to engage with scholars in my field, expand my professional network, and gain valuable insights into my research on intersectionality. The conference provided a dynamic platform to connect with experts and peers who share similar research interests and facilitated meaningful discussions that will undoubtedly contribute to my academic growth.

One of the highlights of my attendance was the opportunity to participate in sessions related to my dissertation topic, intersectionality in applied linguistics and second language learning. These sessions provided fresh perspectives on how intersectionality shapes learners' experiences, identity negotiations, and classroom dynamics. A particularly impactful moment was the plenary talk by Dr. Kayi-Aydar, my thesis advisor, whose work on intersectionality deeply resonates with my research. Her presentation underscored the complexities of identity in language learning contexts and offered how intersectional advocacy may provide insights to create social just spaces for learners and provided me with a base for my dissertation topic.

Additionally, I had the privilege of presenting my research at a roundtable session. The presentation was well received, generating engaging discussions and constructive feedback from attendees. The session allowed me to articulate my research contributions more clearly and receive valuable input that will help strengthen my work moving forward.

Beyond the sessions, the conference provided ample opportunities for networking. I connected with scholars whose work aligns with my interests, fostering potential collaborations and future research discussions. These interactions reinforced the importance of community within academia and the role of conferences in facilitating scholarly exchange.