

Lumana's Oral History

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Dr. Reyes TCLD 423I Fall 2026



"I come from a beautiful land with the highest peaks in the world and with diverse cultural backgrounds. I'm from Nepal."

COMMUNITY STORY

Lumana Shakya

Lumana Shakya came to the United States from the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal, in 2023. She came to the United States from the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal, in 2023 to find a better education than what was available to her back home, and since arriving, she has found community and worked to secure a better future for herself and her family.

In Nepal, many government schools struggle with funding and resources, making quality education difficult. Before the 1950's, the adult literacy rate across Nepal was only 5%. While this number has risen significantly, Nepal's literacy rate is still more than 25% below the world average. (Lillian Zmarzly, 2019) Lumana sought out a different path for herself and decided to pursue not just one, but several educational degrees.

Lumana now works at Southern Adventures, where she has made many connections and gets to hike and explore nature, just like she loves to do back home.

"But I love being here. Like people here, they're so welcoming, they're friendly."



REFLECTION: FUNDS OF KNOWLEDGE

This project was eye-opening because it made us realize how many opportunities in America we sometimes take for granted. Learning about Nepal through Lumana's experiences was really meaningful. It reminded us that every student brings their own experiences and background into the classroom, and teachers should take the time to learn from them.

PRIMARY SOURCES



Top Left/right: Nepali sweets and Nepal National Swimming Team swim cap
Bottom Left/Right: Tibetan/Buddhist-style Prayer Wheel and Nepali calendar (Nepali Patro)

WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS

We both really enjoyed this project and hope to have an opportunity like this again. In our future classrooms, we could use community archives for research-based projects where students explore local history and connect it to what they are learning in class.

ORAL HISTORY



REFERENCES

By: Lillian Zmarzly. (2019, November 20). Education crisis in Nepal. ArcGIS StoryMaps. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/baf5446181184b448d0a22e72cf817cb>