

New Opportunities for UVU student engaged learning through the United Nations Associate Membership at DPI

Utah Valley University became an Associate Member of the United Nations Department of Public Information on November 17, 2017, the first academic institution in the State of Utah and in the Rocky Mountain region.

New membership in the UN-DPI will allow UVU to implement Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) # 4.7 which states that “By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, through education for sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.”

SDG 4.7 coincides with the priorities and focus of UVU as the largest public open enrollment, undergraduate school in the state of Utah, enrolling more than 33,000 students. Established as a vocational training school in 1941, it served mainly the needs of the local community. A growing number of UVU students are non-traditional: about 30 percent of them work more than 31 hours per week while taking classes; and 39 percent have families to support. UVU received an Elective Community Engagement designation from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in 2008 and 2015. CEL can also be defined as a problem-based learning (PBL), when students learn by addressing real-world problems as a group where the instructor serves as a guide, allowing students to take the lead.

A new partnership between UVU and the United Nations Department of Public Information will provide students opportunities to gain access to the variety of programs and initiatives at the United Nations, including internships and research through the Academic Impact with focus on promotion of principles of the UN and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in particular.

At the same time UVUN (a coalition of UVU student associations, such as ENACTUS and Model UN) would allow our students and faculty to promote various activities at our academic institution. UVU contributes to the successful model of economic development in the State of Utah, recognized over the last 6 years by Forbes Journal as the best state to do business in the United States.

Today The Office for Global Engagement is pleased to present to the UN audience an example of how the student engaged learning model has provided UVU students an opportunity to gain experiences, skills and recognition at the United Nations level through the advocacy of the rural and mountain women since 2007.