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For Immediate Release**

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Utah Valley University students contributed to a report on sustainable mountain development in North America, which will be presented at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development "RIO+20" in Brazil on June 20-22.

"UVU is the only university from North America invited to involve students to contribute to this important report," said Baktybek Abdrysaev, UVU history and political science faculty member. "The report demonstrates to the United Nations and others UVU's community engaged learning approach, which is working successfully in getting a global outreach."

Members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU, were invited by Colorado-based sustainable development groups Aspen International Mountain Forum and Telluride Institute to contribute to the report. Nineteen UVU students participated by conducting research in several mountainous regions in North America.

"I am very proud that members of our coalition made such an important contribution to the promotion of sustainable way of life for mountain people both in the region and globally," said John McClure, UIMF president. "We are excited to go to Rio de Janeiro as strong advocates of the mountain cause at this very important gathering."

The report emphasizes the collaboration between UVU and central Asia in promoting sustainable development. It also identifies the 2007 and 2011 Women of the Mountains International Conference, held in Orem, as the only event in the United States to support a regional approach in promoting sustainable mountain development and recognition of gender issues.

The report further explains how the conference has helped advance the sustainable mountain development and gender efforts by expanding the network of North American Mountain Partnership members and involving youth from Utah high schools and UVU students during conference activities.

More information on Utah International Mountain Forum and a copy of the report are available online at: [utinternationalmountainforum.blogspot.com/](http://utinternationalmountainforum.blogspot.com/).

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## **About UVU**

Utah Valley University is located in Orem, Utah, and is home to more than 33,000 students. UVU began as a vocational school during World War II, and in the seven decades since has evolved into a technical school, community college, state college and, finally, a comprehensive regional teaching

university. UVU is one of Utah's largest institutions of higher learning and offers programs ranging from career training to high-demand master degrees, with emphasis on undergraduate education.