

UIMF hosts Marcia Barlow



Marcia Barlow (third from the left) with UVU delegation members

March 3rd 2018, the Utah International Mountain Forum (www.utahimf.org), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) had the pleasure of hosting a workshop that was presented by Ms. Marica Barlow, Vice President of United Families International. Marcia Barlow was invited by UIMF to help prepare the organization's highly anticipated presentation at the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62), New York during March 19-22, 2018. With her over twenty years of hands on experience participating in many UN events, conferences and commissions, we were honored to have Marcia Barlow wealth of knowledge and experience to aid us in our upcoming endeavors.

UIMF of UVU student and faculty led delegation will be confidently attending the CSW62. To make such a fruitful experience happen, UIMF members as usual raised funds from a number of local donors to allow us to learn and engage with a experienced leader in the field. Marcia's workshop "How to advocate at the United Nations", offered invaluable information in preparing our delegation for a successful trip through UVU's engaged learning approach. The essence of the approach is to allow student as a group to learn skills and experiences in focused area through hands-on activities with faculty being for them as mentors.

Being heavily involved in the delegation both attending and presenting at the UN this month, I am looking forward to learning from my peers and experiencing a once in a lifetime opportunity for most. UIMF's focus for this presentation is the University's engaged learning model and how it can be implemented globally in regard to Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) and empowering rural and mountain women and communities as well. I have the pleasure amongst my peers to act as moderator for this upcoming presentation about engaged learning UVU.



Dylan Genes, Dr. Rusty Butler, Dr. Cholpon Akmatalieva and Amy Barnett during the meeting with Marcia Barlow

Never having been to the United Nations, or New York City for that matter, I was extremely grateful to have the opportunity to hear from Ms. Marcia Barlow's experiences and advice on operating in such forums. Giving our team information on operations of UN commissions, we received a heads up on the types of individuals we would meet and how to expedite otherwise grueling tasks. With her insight and patience, I feel I speak not only for myself, but for the rest of our delegation that we feel far more prepared for the road ahead. I can now step forward with confidence in not only myself, but my entire team as well. I look forward to having the immense pleasure of seeing her in the next week during our presentation.

Dylan Genes, Vice-President Foreign Affairs Club UVU