

Michael Hinatsu



Michael Hinatsu is Aviation Science major with minor in Political Science and Constitutional Studies at Utah Valley University (UVU). He grew up in an agricultural community in Southwest Idaho, where he was taught to value hard work, self-reliance, and education of all kinds. He has tried to apply those and other values into everything he have done and is doing. He became involved with Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU in September 2018. At that time he coordinated along with Andrew Jensen, Angela Landa, and Colin Fuller the authorship of a statement that was later distributed by ECOSOC as the official document [E/CN.6/2019/NGO/64](#), in preparation for UIMF's contribution to the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) to be held in March 2019.

Since then, he has worked closely with Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev and a number of UIMF members and UVU students to develop a curriculum for Spring 2019 class "Globalization and Sustainable Mountain Development," as well as overseen preparations and work related to UIMF's travels to New York City for CSW63. He has organized tasks, goals, and projects that will help UIMF members get to New York City to lobby UN diplomats, members of civil society, and the global community about women and girls in mountain communities, UVU student engaged learning, and Utah as a best model of sustainable mountain development. In addition, he received approval to host a parallel event at CSW63 titled "Student engaged learning to empower mountain women and girls," in which UIMF team will advocate for the above topics. He has also contributed through CSW/NGOs online sessions language about mountain women to a [draft document](#) which representatives of the UN Member States affiliated with ECOSOC will use to negotiate CSW63's agreed conclusions.

UIMF has given to Michael unique and unprecedented opportunities to engage with dedicated, diverse nontraditional UVU students, and to have meaningful discussions with local, state, regional, and even international leaders and dignitaries, including the Orem City Mayor, members of Orem Rotary, and a number of diplomats, including UN DPI Director of Public Outreach [Mr. Maher Nasser](#), Consul General of Azerbaijan in California Mr. [H.E. Nasimi Aghayev](#), and Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations (UN), [Mr. Mahmamin Mahmaminov](#). Through these discussions, as well as preparations to CSW63, UIMF has also given him the opportunity to increase the importance in his mind of cooperation at all levels of governance, as well as through local, regional, national, and international organizations, representatives, and communities; evidently, the most important issues that we face in our respective communities and arenas of influence cannot be addresses, nor solved, without communication, understanding, and coordinated action.