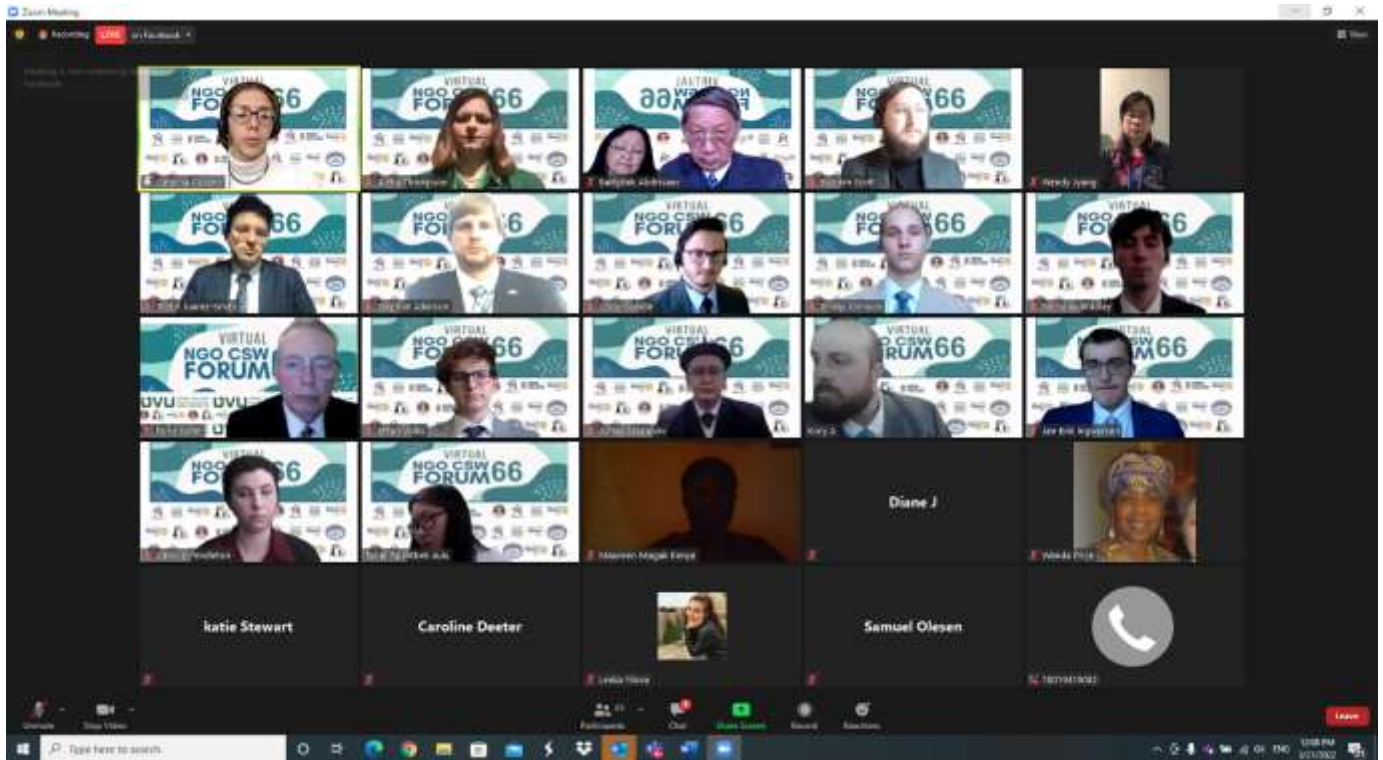


My Contribution to the Mountain Women Advocacy Through the Student-Engaged Learning at the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women



Cody Conklin (3rd column & 2nd row) with peers and NGO representatives

I was invited to participate in a parallel event titled “*Inclusive Student Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain Women Globally*” for the 66th session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), my second time participating at CSW. This was a particularly special event because the students participating represented a diverse coalition of students that wanted to share their stories and ideas of what would empower women in the mountainous communities. The purpose was to include mountain women on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These mountain communities and families are among the poorest and most neglected nationally and globally. This time we partnered with students from Snow College here in Utah and students from Osh Technological University in Kyrgyzstan.

Having this diverse coalition really opened my eyes to how these values of empowering women can help any community around the world.



Cody Conklin presenting his statement at the event

The Student Engaged Learning model encourages students, including non-traditional unable to attend college in a traditional format because of family, careers, or life experience, to work as a group to solve real issues with a faculty member serving as a mentor. As a non-traditional student myself, I have gained a lot of experience from working full-time while going to school. Working full-time has given me the opportunity to learn practical skills while working on important causes. [A big portion of my statement](#) highlighted the work that my employer, BambooHR, has been doing in the area of women's rights. The company strives to be at the forefront of women empowerment in the workplace and a thoughtful leader. BambooHR was very supportive of my efforts at previous events, such as CSW 65 or my presentation on International Mountain Day (IMD). For my speech on IMD 2021, they shared how proud they were of my work in sustainable development on their social media channel which received

hundreds of views. They even included a link to our event which further gave exposure to our efforts here at the UIMF. For CSW66, I was able to share what I have learned from them professionally as well as present their great work as a model for other organizations and companies.

This event is another example of how the SEL model helps non-traditional students share their talents, experiences, and knowledge with the world in a way that would not be possible with other universities. Mentors of the UIMF actively encourage non-traditional students to participate and be active in the clubs and in the events that occur on campus. These events provide professional experiences. I believe that this is the only reason non-traditional students like me are able to participate and gain recognition at the highest level, the United Nations.

Cody Conklin UIMF, UVU Rotaract & Foreign Affairs club