

Celebrating the Achievements of Utah at the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women



My presentation at CSW66 addressing the effects of climate change in Utah

On Monday, March 21, 2022, The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), and representatives from Snow College and the Osh Technological University had the privilege of hosting a parallel event entitled “*Inclusive Student Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain Women Globally*” at the 66th session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66). The event was planned and hosted by students through the student engaged learning model (SEL). SEL is where students work together as a group, with a faculty member serving as mentor. It encourages collaboration and gives students from various backgrounds an opportunity to share their unique perspectives and experiences.

The theme of CSW66 was “achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction

policies and programmes”. The effects of climate change are felt in my home state through lack of fresh water, air pollution and forest fires. Every year, Utah, USA is faced with the threat of forest fires that can have major negative consequences for mountain communities. In my statement, I took the opportunity to share what local Utah leaders and Utah’s congressional delegation is doing to address these challenges. In highlighting the One Utah Road Map and the creation of the Climate Change Caucus in the House of Representative, *I was able to illustrate how Utah has taken a sustainable development approach in line with the United Nations’ Agenda 2030.* Through these efforts Utah has become an example of what sustainable mountain development can look like, while addressing the important issues raised by CSW66 theme. I



Members of the Utah International Mountain Forum presents on the SEL model

also took the time to discuss how the application of the SEL model on a global scale could provide another alternative to meeting the challenges brought by climate change, and how these SEL empowers women in girls within rural regions. Other students addressed issues such as women’s health, education, and equality.

It was an honor to speak along with my peers and I'd like to thank the Commission on the Status of Women for the amazing opportunity to promote the issues faced by women and mountain communities. My hope is that we can see real change as a result of our efforts.

-William Clark, UIMF Member