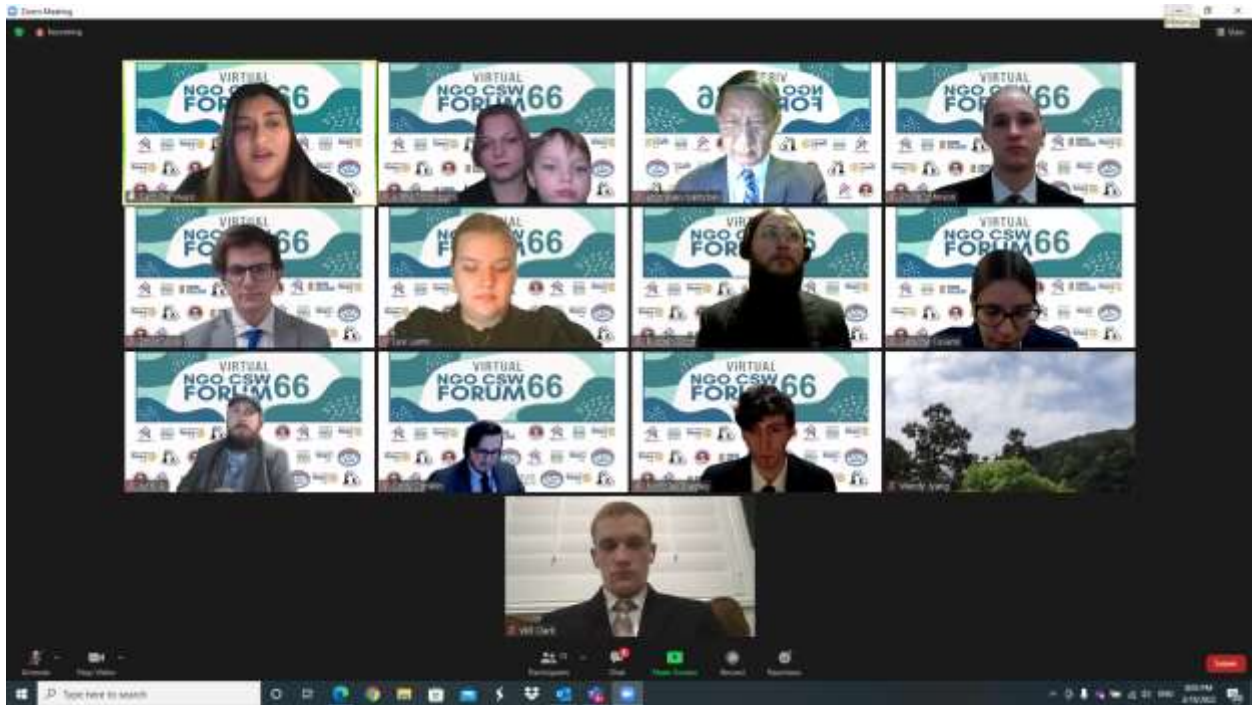# My contributions to the 66th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Presenting my speech on the importance of women in technology.

I am honored to have worked with an amazing group of highly passionate, dedicated, and well-informed individuals during the Parallel event titled "*Inclusive Student Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain Women Globally*" for the 66th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women. For this event, I gave a speech on how the student-engaged learning (SEL) model has been implemented at Utah Valley University (UVU) to support women in technical degrees.

My experience in SEL at UVU has come primarily from student-run organizations (school clubs). I served as the president of the Cybersecurity Club at UVU for close to two years. During my time as president, I have interacted with a number of clubs such as the Girls Who Code Club, an organization designed to provide peer support for women in technical fields. I have seen firsthand how the SEL model has improved academic performance, provided social support, and has created job opportunities for women in mountainous regions. Growing technology has introduced new ways to combat climate change, and women are essential to these developments. Providing more support to women, through girls-who-code and SEL, can allow women in mountainous regions to improve their community, and fully join the fight to mitigate climate change.

UIMF members hold dress-rehearsal to prepare for CSW66

In the days leading up to the conference, I went through numerous drafts of my speech, fine-tuning it to be concise and informative. UIMF vice president Alitha Thompson and Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev gave guidance regarding my speech and helped me revise it. They gave me maximum control in my writing and helped teach me how to be deliberate in my words.

During the day of the competition, I met with my colleagues on campus to deliver my speech in the virtual parallel event held through Zoom. It was extremely rewarding to be able to speak to people around the world, including those in places such as Peru, Kazakhstan, and Russia. While there were some small technical issues, my colleagues were quick to find solutions to them. I was able to provide my technical skills to help provide quality video and sound to my colleagues. When the lighting failed in our room, I instantly grabbed my cell phone and used the flashlight to highlight the remaining speakers. This gave my colleagues time to gather video lighting equipment, which we set up and use until all presenters were finished. Through this experience, I have gained better knowledge and professional skills. I feel more confident in how to both speak and write for international conferences sponsored by the United Nations, as well as problem-solving through technical issues.

-Nicholas Bradley, UIMF member