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Parallel vent
“Inclusive Student-Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain Women Globally”
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Good afternoon! My name is Kory Armitstead and I am a senior at Utah Valley University studying Political Science with an emphasis in Public Law and Philosophy. As the son of a former educator, education was always a central focus in the home. The most important and fundamental education a child receives is not from state-funded institutions or teachers but from resources and knowledge they receive. According to the September 2017 UNESCO Institute for Statistics report, more than half of children and adolescents are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics. On average, 58% of school-aged children lack proficiency, with the highest rate in some countries reaching 81%. The second-lowest proficiency scores in the world were in rural mountainous regions in Central and Southern Asia.

Climate change and unforeseen events, such as COVID-19, only exacerbate this issue for mountain communities. Extreme weather events destroy school buildings, leaving students without resources. UNICEF’s September 2020 report outlined that 90 percent of countries adopted alternate means of learning during the pandemic, with 90% of those switching to digital or other types of remote learning. Only 60% of these areas participated in remote learning for pre-primary education, which is a child’s fundamental learning and socialization period. Over 463 million school-aged children could

not participate due to lack of access to technological resources or lived in areas that did not facilitate such learning methods.

This must change. Resources must be available to each child in regular times and periods of difficult circumstances, particularly in mountainous regions where at-home learning is necessary. The student-engaged learning (SEL) method fosters a network of students, families and communities to provide a comprehensive learning experience. It empowers families to learn from each other, other families and peers as well as encourages resource-sharing. Further, when guardians are actively involved in children's education, it drastically improves learning. Basic involvement in parental networks makes a substantial difference (closing the gap almost entirely) between advantaged and disadvantaged school neighborhoods, and children's education is enhanced innovations, such as Elon Musk's Starlink, enable everyone access to unlimited, unfettered information,

Education of our youth is a "now" problem that could worsen, yet it only has every opportunity to get better. Through SEL, students of all ages can be educated in not only why, but in how we must care for the planet to avoid man-made environmental disasters and mitigate them when they occur.

The great mind of Nikola Tesla might have defined it best, "What we now want is closer contact and better understanding between individuals and communities all over the earth, and the elimination of egoism and pride which is always prone to plunge the world into primeval barbarism and strife... Peace can only come as a natural consequence of universal enlightenment..."

Arming guardians with SEL facilitates a livable and sustainable education that helps mitigate climate change and, raises the empowerment of women which will create overall general equality.

As Nikola Tesla outlined, peace is the consequence of universal enlightenment, and universal enlightenment dispels the darkness of conflict. Thank You.