

STATEMENT
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UIMF Member
Utah Valley University
66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
Parallel event
“Inclusive Student Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain
Women Globally”
March 21, 2022

Hello everyone, my name is Nicholas Bradley, I am currently majoring in cybersecurity and minoring in national security studies at Utah Valley University (UVU). Over the past two years, I have worked as the Cybersecurity Club President to foster the student-engaged learning (SEL) model that has been developed and implemented by the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of clubs at UVU and have pushed for greater involvement in technology for women who live in mountain areas. This SEL model empowers women to develop skills in computer science, IT, and other tech related fields that suffer from a large gender gap. Target 5b of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizes the need to enhance the use of enabling technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

Utah is one of the leading mountain states that fosters the growth of tech companies and empowers women participation in technology and engineering. Utah has created its own tech sector, Silicon Slopes with companies developing new technologies in Artificial Intelligence and the internet of things, among other areas. These companies also encourage the students at UVU and in particular women to play a bigger role in emerging technologies. XANT, a tech company in Utah, provides seven women students the XANT scholarship for Excellence in Engineering, a program put together to support women pursuing a career in computer science in addition to providing free programming classes to young girls.

Information technologies could reduce air pollution and improve the health of people in mountainous regions, while also reducing carbon emissions. At the heart of this technological revolution is not silicon, but the talent that creates and implements these systems. It is the people, especially women – as much as the technology – that will curb carbon emissions.

UVU has several clubs dedicated to supporting women in tech fields. Chief among these is the Girls Who Code Club allowing women participants to learn technical concepts, gain leadership skills, and complete college. These benefits are a direct result of the peer support system that develops from student-engaged-learning.

These practices and skills can be used in any mountain areas in any country, due to the versatility and group learning that student engaged clubs provide. Using student-engaged-learning, women in mountainous regions can more fully join the fight against climate change. The actions we take today will help to secure the future.

Thank you.