

## **Discussing Sustainable Mountain Development and Climate Change Policy with Ambassador Harold Forsyth, Permanent Representative of Peru to the OAS**

On March 3, 2022, the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) had the opportunity to host a discussion with Ambassador Harold Forsythe, Permanent Representative of Peru to the Organization of American States (OAS). Students presented on a number of topics in relation to mountain communities including sustainable development, climate change, the threats of drug cartels, education, and UIMF's work in advocating for mountain regions.



*William Clark is reading a statement*

The discussion was held via a student engaged learning model (SEL). In applying the SEL method, members of UIMF collaborated to host the event with only minimal facility support. The SEL model gives students from diverse backgrounds an opportunity to meaningfully contribute to organizations and causes that are personally important to them during their time at UVU. It is through these opportunities that we are able to apply the skills we are learning in the classroom to promote real change.



*UIMF members with Ambassador Harold Forsythe*

During the discussion, I discussed the threat climate change poses to mountain communities and how these negative side effects can impact women. I also took the opportunity to highlight what leaders from the state of Utah are doing to address these challenges. In following Utah's example, my hope is that organizations like the OAS can make meaningful progress on international issues like climate change.



*Ambassador Harold Forsythe responds to students*

Ambassador Forsyth was receptive to our comments and noted that he would advocate to establish a working group addressing mountain causes in the OAS. Overall, the success of this event highlights the benefits of the SEL model. As students we can make our voices heard and I'd like to thank Utah Valley University and the Office of Global Engagement for actively promoting these opportunities. My hope is that we can continue to work with Ambassador Forsyth to address the issues we discussed.

**William Clark, UIMF Member**