

**STATEMENT**  
**Chance Simons**

**Utah Valley University Rotaractor**  
**67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women**  
**Parallel Event**  
***“Inclusive Student Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain Women Globally”***  
**March 6th, 2023.**

Hello everyone, my name is Chance Simons. I would like to begin by thanking the Utah Valley University (UVU) Rotaract for granting me the opportunity to give this address.

The Chilean Patagonia is a vast, mountainous region at the southern tip of South America. For these communities here, their culture and family traditions maintain a deep connection to the land.

Because of the isolated nature of mountain communities, the people, especially women, face barriers in obtaining quality education. But in the modern day, individuals and organizations work tirelessly to provide quality online education to remote communities. In 2022, internet access in Chile reached 92% of the population and continues to grow. Using expanding Chilean internet access and existing initiatives, we can promote accessible solutions to education in these mountain communities. UVU’s Student Engaged Learning model and initiatives through Rotary International help mountain communities obtain access to quality education through club engagement and Student Engaged Learning.

The UVU Student Engaged Learning model, or SEL, encourages students, especially non-traditional students, to work inclusively as a group to solve real-world issues, with faculty serving as mentors. The engaged learning structure provides the needed adaptability for mountain mothers as a driving force for sustainable development and quality education. Silvia Calfuqueo Lefio, a native Mapuche woman, mother of three, community leader, and elementary school teacher, advocates for sustainability by sharing traditional knowledge. Leaders like this mother are key to driving sustainable development on a human scale. The UVU SEL model promotes traditional solutions by providing students and community leaders with the tools they need to enact lasting change.

Mothers, as non-traditional students, can create a home-learning environment by engaging with their children. I recall my own mother taking me to community events at our public library, teaching me to interact with my community and learn from others by using resources the community had provided her. Taking these lessons into the future as a new member of the UVU Rotaract, and as a non-traditional student, I am grateful for the opportunities the SEL model has given me that I would have never had otherwise and the way it has elevated my studies. Thank you for your time and consideration.