

**STATEMENT**  
**Laila Mitchell**

**Utah International Mountain Forum, member**  
**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.**

Good afternoon, everyone, my name is Laila Mitchell, I am a senior at Utah Valley University (UVU), studying National Security. In 2019, I attended the United Nations 63rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63). As a representative of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU, I spoke at the parallel event to Advocate for Mountain Women.

Mountain communities and states face the challenges of incorporating Student Engaged Learning (SEL) in academics. There is also a lack of student involvement in technological innovations. UVU has used Student Engaged Learning to empower traditional and non-traditional students to solve real-world problems. I have been given opportunities to take advantage of what UVU has to offer through my involvement in student clubs.

My involvement with the Center for National Security Society has provided me with resources and networking opportunities. As an ambassador for the National Security Society, I host events and engage with government officials.

The Center for National Security Studies (CNSS) connects students to Utah's technology sector through the Intermountain Intelligence, Industry, and Security Consortium, also referred to as I3SC. Students involved in I3SC get experience working with the Open-Source Intelligence Center (OSIC) and Emerging tech policy lab.

The Center for National Security Studies also has a student cyber security team that competes at a national level. In 2021, they took first place at the Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge and will be competing again this month in Washington D.C.

Through my educational experiences at UVU, I have recognized the impact student involvement has on technological advancements. The world is constantly adapting to new technologies and the youth have so much potential to offer.