

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Alitha Thompson

President

Utah International Mountain Forum,
a coalition of student clubs at **Utah Valley University**
67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Parallel Event

Empowering Mountain Women through Inclusive Student-engaged Learning Educational Initiative

March 6th, 2023

Good afternoon.

I am Alitha Thompson, the first female president of the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University. This event will be held through Student-engaged learning or SEL, an inexpensive educational initiative that can be used by academic institutions worldwide. SEL encourages students, both traditional and non-traditional, to work inclusively as a group to solve real-world problems with faculty serving as a mentor. Non-traditional students are usually older than 25 and balance their education with work and family responsibilities. We are honored to host on behalf of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce this parallel event.

I'd like to turn the time over to our moderator today, the President of the Utah Valley University Rotaract club, Tristin Juarez-Smith.