

Statement

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Parallel Event

Empowering Mountain Women through Inclusive Student-engaged Learning Educational Initiative

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Good afternoon, everyone, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak today at this forum. My name is Jake Lamoreaux, I am a senior at Utah Valley University, studying in Political Science and National Security.

As a native and lifelong resident of Utah, I see the necessity of protecting and maintaining our beautiful mountainous regions while also ensuring that women, girls and families are provided the opportunities for higher education. Currently, I am researching the role of women within policies of France towards mountain regions. Even within this highly developed country, in a study on conservation support, only one third of respondents were women. This issue can be alleviated by increasing access to the internet in more rural areas.

Contributions to environmental conservation policies can be managed through increased awareness, education and access to technology. Currently, France is working to provide high-speed internet access to rural areas by 2025. Women can become more involved in local politics through the Student Engaged Learning model. The SEL model encourages students, traditional and non-traditional, to work as a group to solve real world problems, with faculty serving as mentors. It has helped students like myself gain the opportunity to learn about conservation efforts and get involved in supporting policies within their local communities. As an example, through clubs like UIMF and UVU Rotaract, we raise awareness on sustainable mountain development through partnering with dignitaries like the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan last month and being able to contribute to our local mountains through service projects like planting trees, raising funds by selling oranges, and participating in local politics.

These educational opportunities need to be more accessible to communities on a global scale in order to push for sustainable development in our mountainous regions and continue to preserve them for everyone who inhabits and visits them.

Thank you.