

Statement
Hendrix Bailey
Utah Valley University, Utah
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Parallel Event
Empowering Mountain Women through Inclusive Student-engaged Learning Educational Initiative
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Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Hendrix Bailey. Today I am speaking here as a student at Utah Valley University,

As per my research, during the Russian invasion of Ukraine, women, and in mountain areas in particular, are at an increased risk of being victimized by men and suffer from mental health problems after a conflict. They have also taken on increasingly demanding roles in childcare, elder care, and the defense of their nation. Unfortunately, These women, especially in mountain regions, are frequently left out of formal decision making processes and policy production that directly affects them. I want to express the importance of education and inclusive student engaged learning or SEL for the mental wellbeing of women in mountain regions.

In Ukraine, Carpathian Mountain villages such as Kryvorivnya have welcomed 600 refugees to their village of 1300 people, the dramatic increase of people in such a small area has stressed already scarce resources for these women in the mountains. When looking at proximity to psychosocial resources, the nearest facilities are several hours away.

In my home state of Utah, there is a program known as “hope squad”, which is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program and educational resource for the community; Hope squad students are nominated by their peers, and utilizing the SEL model, attempt to reduce suicide and increase mental health wellness through community education, training, and peer intervention. UVU Rotaractors this month raised funds for Hope4Orem a non-profit from our city of Orem, which implements and supports these programs. It could be implemented in the mountain regions worldwide to help maintain the mental health of local women.

SEL has also allowed me to gain such skills as networking, multitasking, and working in a team. SEL has given me the opportunity to work with the friends committee on national legislation to meet with state legislators, Utah congressmen, and foreign ambassadors such as the ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to the US on other issues facing mountain communities, such as carbon pricing and environmental justice. And I was able to use my knowledge to help others in ways that would otherwise have been impossible.

Thank you for your time.