

MODERATOR
Tristin Juarez-Smith
President
Utah Valley University Rotaract

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

Thank you, Alitha. I would like to thank all of you for taking the time to join us in our discussion on how the UVU co-curricular, inclusive Student-Engaged Learning educational initiative, or SEL, can empower students and their communities, especially within mountain regions. SEL encourages students, both traditional and non-traditional, to work inclusively as a group to solve real-world problems, such as advocating for Sustainable Mountain Development, with faculty serving as mentors. Based on Burch's problem-based Learning, SEL has 4 steps.

Students 1) Are provided problems to study; 2) Study problems as a group; 3) Have Teachers as mentors for self-learning; and 4) Carry the responsibility for self-learning.

The UVU model uses student clubs as an inexpensive educational tool that can be used by any academic institution. They are also important for student learning outside of the classroom, providing opportunities to work interdependently, in groups, or through mentoring experiences led by faculty.

Non-traditional students, who are 25 years or older, usually avoid extracurricular activities. Therefore, the model provides incentives such as flexible activity scheduling, involvement of families, and gaining recognition for their contributions. Due to that, non-traditional students, as local community representatives, contribute to the model skills and experiences toward SMD advocacy and teach their traditional peers to do the same.

As President of UVU's Rotaract, a student club, under the umbrella of UIMF, that works with the Orem-Lindon Rotary club, and a chapter of the Rotary International, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the change and empowerment SEL can provide students and mountain communities.

Q&A Introduction

We would like to thank you for joining our discussion illustrating how the UVU co-curricular, inclusive Student-Engaged Learning educational initiative, can empower students and their communities, especially within mountain regions. Through the SEL model, students, both traditional and non-traditional, work inclusively as a group to solve real-world problems, such as advocating for Sustainable Mountain Development, with faculty serving as mentors. At this time, we would like to open the floor to questions. For those joining us virtually, we will have our technical manager relay your questions. We will have 9 minutes for questions.

Closing Remarks

As we conclude our event, we would like to extend our appreciation to our mentors. Our student efforts would not be possible without the support of our UVU faculty members, such as Dr. Desert, Dr. Abdrisaev, Dr. Pang, Dr. England, and Dr. Cockerham; along with the continued support and mentorship from our Orem-Lindon Rotarians and the UVU Office for Global Engagement, especially, Dr. Lago, Carlos Alarco, and Amy Barnett.

Once again, thank you for joining our discussion showcasing the impact the UVU co-curricular, inclusive Student-Engaged Learning educational initiative can have on students and communities, especially within mountain communities.

Thank you!