

## UIMF Students Simulate the 17 Sustainable Development Goals



*UIMF Students Pose with Victoria Bard, UVU Political Science Chair Jay Desart, and Tanicca Armstrong*

On February 7th, 2025, Utah Valley University (UVU) students partnered with the Utah Branch of the United Nations Association to host a United Nations (UN) simulation game about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Vice President of the Utah Branch of the United Nations Association, Victoria Bard, explained and led the demonstration. The 2030 SDGs Game taught students about the challenges and intricacies in international cooperation, especially when different organizations and individuals possess various personal goals.



*McKay Jones and UVU Rotaract President Christ Louyoko Trade Cards with Victoria Bard*

Achieving the SDG goals requires achieving smaller economic, social and environmental goals. For example, building more efficient infrastructure simultaneously develops better working conditions and less industrial pollution. However, these goals must exist in a balance, and involve many organizations making sacrifices of their own interests.

This game gave me the opportunity to understand what it feels like to hold true to personal values and understand the needs of a much broader community. In the game, my assigned mission was to just earn as much money as possible. In the first round, this caused the rest of the world to not achieve their own goals, and it looked like we were all heading down an unsustainable path. Guaranteeing a safe world for our posterity requires healthy communities and adequate social, environmental, and economic conditions.



### *UIMF Students Collectively Achieve the 2030 17 Sustainable Development Goals*

This event prepared our students for our participation at the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on March 10-13th, 2025. As members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU dedicated to Sustainable Mountain Development, we are always looking for new ways to challenge our worldview. This helps develop us into more conscious and data-informed global citizens. Through the Student Engaged Learning Model (SEL), we reinforced our

understanding of policy exchanges through collaboration, critical thinking, and collective problem-solving.

**-McKay Jones, Vice President of Utah International Mountain Forum**