

**My Advocacy for Mountain Women at CSW70 through the Student Engaged Learning Model.**



**Screenshot of the Presenters at the Parallel Event**

On Tuesday, March 10, 2026, I participated in the 70th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Through the Student Engaged Learning model, that encourages students to be hands-on in solving real world problems under the guidance of faculty mentorship. The theme for our parallel event this year was “Raising Justice Awareness of Mountain Women Through Student Engaged Learning” This was my third time being able to advocate for women at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, where I was able to share a statement that highlighted the vulnerable position women and girls face as they experience disproportionate rates of health issues due to the Air Pollution in West Salt Lake City.



***Janessa-Michelle Purcell Speaks at the Parallel Event***

My research of Air Pollution is a continuation from the foundations of last year, where we not only presented at the CSW69, but also at Oxford University last July. In conducting this extensive research my colleague, McKay Jones and I, were able to interview community champions, field experts and community members to hear their perspective of how we can address this issue of Air Pollution in West Salt Lake. The key to finding a solution is to collaborate with the range of stakeholders, legislators, community champions, field experts and community members. In bringing everyone together we are able to determine a more accurate picture of what approaches should be taken. I was fortunate enough to also complete an

internship at the Utah State Legislator, where I was able to experience firsthand how some Utah legislators and government officials have taken the necessary steps to resolve this issue, which was a major difference in our research findings from last year.



**Group Photo of Presenters at the Parallel Event**

As the second woman president of the Utah International Mountain Forum, having been serving since 2024, I leave a legacy of connecting the issues of mountain communities with practical solutions in hosting regular service projects. Over the last few years we have participated in cleaning the Provo River Delta, volunteering at the Congressional Conservative Climate Summit, assembling over 200 hygiene kits, distributing hundreds of coats to Title I schools, and raising funds to benefit the local communities in partnership with the Orem-Lindon Rotarians. These service projects have been a small part in how we can contribute to Sustainable Mountain Development within our own local community of Orem, Utah.

As my time as the President of the Utah International Mountain Forum, I am grateful for these experiences that have helped me play a role in being the change I hope to see in the world. We have been able to accomplish many great things, such as our recognition in the 2023-2025 UN Secretary General's report on Sustainable Mountain Development, hosting Ambassador Michelle Sison, the Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, collaborating with our peers from the Kyrgyz Republic and more. All in all, it will always be a personal initiative of mine to invest in the women and girls of the mountains, as we will then be investing in future generations to come.

**-Janessa- Michelle Purcell, President, Utah International Mountain Forum**