

Club Rush Engagement at Utah Valley University

On February 18 and 19, 2026, members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), participated in the university's semiannual Club Rush event held on campus. The Foreign Affairs Club, Rotaract Club at UVU, and UIMF came together to promote student involvement in global service initiatives, particularly efforts supporting sustainable development in mountain communities.

The event provided an opportunity to engage with a wide range of students interested in international relations, environmental issues, and public service. Club members also shared information about their upcoming 2026 Study Abroad program to United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and New York City, while encouraging students to prepare for future participation in 2027.



Poster of Club Rush event

During Club Rush, members actively engaged with students visiting the booth by explaining the mission of each organization and highlighting past and upcoming initiatives focused on sustainable mountain development. The tables were decorated with banners painted by Natalia

Figueroa, along with flags, informational posters, plants, and baskets containing flyers, candy, and promotional materials for study abroad opportunities.

A key highlight of the event was the strong student interest in learning about how UVU undergraduates are actively involved in international advocacy. Many students were surprised to hear that UVU students were preparing to present and lobby at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 70) in March 2026, focusing on issues affecting mountain women and girls. Conversations like these help raise awareness of the global impact student-led initiatives can have.



Domenic Callor and Aemish Brock representing Foreign Affairs Club

Club Rush demonstrated a strong example of Student-Engaged Learning (SEL) in practice. Students developed leadership, communication, teamwork, and organizational skills through direct interaction with peers and the public. Managing outreach tables required coordination among members, clear communication of complex global issues, and the ability to engage diverse audiences effectively.

This experience also prepared students for future international participation, particularly the 2026 study abroad program to UN sessions in Geneva and New York. By practicing advocacy and

public engagement on campus, students strengthened their confidence and readiness for global diplomacy settings.

Table Decorations



Participating in Club Rush was a meaningful experience that highlighted the importance of student involvement in global issues. I was especially encouraged by how many students expressed genuine curiosity and support for our work on sustainable mountain development. It was inspiring to see peers recognize that undergraduate students can actively contribute to international advocacy efforts.

One of the most memorable moments was speaking with a mother visiting the event with her daughter. She expressed surprise that UVU students were involved in international lobbying efforts and noted how unique this level of engagement was compared to other universities she was familiar with. That conversation reinforced the value of our work and its broader impact.

I also had the opportunity to be interviewed by the UVU student newspaper, where I discussed our upcoming participation in CSW 70 and our ongoing research on mountain women and girls.

Being able to share our mission publicly helped reinforce the importance of student voices in global discussions.

Overall, this experience strengthened my understanding of service, leadership, and international engagement, and deepened my commitment to continued involvement in UIMF initiatives.



Louyoko Nianza, Natalia Figueroa, and Domenic Callor engaging in Club Rush

I would like to acknowledge all members of the Foreign Affairs Club, Rotaract Club, and UIMF who contributed to the success of Club Rush, including Natalia Figueroa, Aemish Brock, Domenic Callor, Alley Holt, Antoine Mwamba, and Louyoko Nianza. Their dedication ensured that the event ran smoothly and that meaningful conversations were held with visiting students throughout both days.

Club Rush successfully increased awareness of student-led international advocacy efforts and encouraged new students to join initiatives focused on sustainable mountain development and global engagement. The event demonstrated the power of student collaboration in advancing real-world impact through education, service, and diplomacy.

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