



## NEWSRELEASE

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### UVU DELEGATION PRESENTS AT UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RIO DE JANEIRO

A Utah Valley University delegation was among several U.S. institutions that recently presented at and contributed to the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development during the delegation's visit June 18-21 to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The conference brought together the world's leaders and foremost experts in the field of sustainable development, who analyzed the progress in fighting global poverty, unemployment and climate change since the landmark Earth Summit in Brazil in 1992.

Two members of the delegation — Sara Ulloa, a UVU professor of Spanish and the delegation's leader and John McClure, a UVU senior international relations major and president of Utah International Mountain Forum — played an active role in the discussions and final documents regarding sustainable mountain development at the Rio conference. The participation of the UVU delegation was also recognized at the Mountain Pavilion, the primary venue for gathering institutions to advocate for sustainable mountain development, along with other prominent global institutions, such as the Swiss and Italian governments, and regional coordinators from Latin America and Nepal.

A highlight of the delegation's trip was its participation at the Third Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership on June 19 in Rio de Janeiro. The Mountain Partnership is the coordinator of the sustainable mountain development (SMD) agenda globally. Delegations at the Mountain Pavilion reached a common strategy for global mountain communities to collaborate over the next five years.

The UVU delegation also hosted a June 18 presentation at a conference side-event during which they described their efforts (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmKj46hRhqM&feature=youtu.be>) to support SMD since 2006, when UVU joined the Mountain Partnership. Their contributions include the presentation of three international Women of the Mountains conferences, two hosted at UVU in 2007 and 2011, and one in Peru in June 2012 to promote gender and SMD issues based on a regional and international approach.

"We at UVU will continue to support efforts of the Mountain Partnership in promoting sustainable mountain development by creating partnerships both in the region and beyond," Ulloa said.

At the Rio conference, McClure shared experiences of the student group's contribution to the overall success in promoting SMD. "Our main goal is to groom a new generation of leaders in Utah and from other academic institutions, who will further advocate for a sustainable way of life in the mountains," McClure said.

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UVU's efforts to advocate a regional approach in the promotion of SMD were also highlighted at the exhibition titled, "Contribution of the Mountain Partnership members from the Rocky Mountains in Promoting Gender and Sustainable Mountain Development Agendas in North America." The exhibition was comprised of 12 displays that described the chronology of the development of special ties of friendship and cooperation between UVU and its partners.

The delegation's visit to Latin America and participation at the U.N. conference was possible thanks to support from several UVU organizations, including the Office of Engaged Learning, the Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy, the College of Humanities & Social Sciences, the History & Political Science Department and the Department of Languages.

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### **About UVU**

Utah Valley University is located in Orem, Utah and is home to more than 33,000 students. UVU began as a vocational school during World War II, and in the seven decades since has evolved into a technical school, community school, state college and, finally a comprehensive regional teaching university. UVU is one of Utah's largest institutions of higher learning and offers programs ranging from career training to high-demand master degrees, with emphasis on undergraduate education.