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STATEMENT
DURING ROUND TABLE
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION
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International Women's Day is very important, because it reminds us of all the many times that women have shaped our world and perspectives. It helps remind us that no matter what a woman chooses to do with her life she is entitled to be whatever and whoever she chooses to be. Making sure that opportunities are there for women everywhere is something that I think is very important. As a woman, I have been very fortunate in gaining opportunities to be whatever I want to be. For the women that fought for the rights of women everywhere today is a good day to be appreciative of them. However, we still have work to do, there are still women in mountainous regions that are affected by many challenges and today is a great day to think about what we can do to help them.

It was a great opportunity for me as well as other UVU students to contribute to the gender and women cause both In Utah and globally on October 7-9, 2015. At that time Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU and I was a part of it, were able to host for the first time here in Orem, UT the Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference under the umbrella of the Mountain Partnership, sub-unit of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. During the Conference I helped to register individuals and guide them to wherever they needed to be. I was also able to assist in video interviews of the guests from all over the world. This was a very memorable experience for me. Towards the end of the conference I was able to attend the Habitat for Humanity activity where we helped with the landscaping of a home that was being built for a woman in a wheelchair. I was amazed by the compassion and detail that was put into the project to help this women make a better life for herself.

Shortly after the Women of the Mountains Conference I assisted in collecting signatures for a petition that advocated for, ensuring that the impact of climate change on Mountain Peoples and Ecosystems was fully addressed in the new climate deal during the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP21) in Paris last December. With the help of many willing students and the support from an amazing professor, we were able help the Mountain Partnership obtain enough signatures to be heard. It was an amazing success for the students involved and for myself. We gathered many signatures from the students here at Utah Valley University, as well as made efforts to have family members sign the petition and through our combined efforts we were able to make an impact.

Currently, in my independent study I am researching community based living that was prominent at the time the state of Utah was settled. I am interested to know how the utopian ideals shaped the model we currently have in this state, and how it has provided the framework has allowed Utah to be a model for sustainable mountain development. It will include also a study how women and families contributed to that model