

## *Utah Valley University becomes a member of the United Nations DPI*



*(UIMF's) theme: 'Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger, migration.'*

Our primary intention for this year's International Mountain Day was to discuss the importance of ensuring the sustainable development goals among the mountain communities worldwide. Our goal was to discuss and inform each other on how we could help these communities; who are usually the poorest and the most vulnerable communities, challenged with problems such as migration, hunger and climate change.

This year I had the opportunity to be involved as the media/advertising lead for the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU. Having worked with UIMF during several semesters I have gained more experiential knowledge than any college course I've taken so far. Through working with Ambassadors of different countries accredited at the United Nations and United States, generals, local and worldwide leaders I have a better understanding on how I can make more of a positive change for the world.



*(L to R): Ruben Garces receives a certificate of contribution from Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, during the UN International Mountain Day*

Dr. Baldomero Lago, CIO/Vice-Rector for Global Engagement, UVU spoke about the new a partnership initiative between UVU and the United Nations and how it will be providing students with many new opportunities to contribute to the UN's activities including the advocacy of the mountain cause. Following him, Ms. Gina Cornia, Executive Director of Utahans Against Hunger (UAH), spoke on impoverished people in Utah and our role in assisting the locals here in Utah. Concluding Dr. Colleen Bye, representative of the group Citizens Climate Lobby, then gave a presentation on climate change and the importance it has on the world. As important part of the event, Derek Garfield and Megan Raines, UVU students, reported about their projects helping mountain people in Sweden and Uganda, respectively. All of the presentations given were excellent and brought new awareness to everyone who was there.

The Utah Valley University's Seventh Annual Mountain Day was then concluded with certificate awards, given away by Baktybek Abdrisaev, who represents the United Nations Mountain Partnership at UVU. The UN body highlighted in such way contribution of many students,

faculty and members of local community to the promotion of mountain development projects and initiatives in the state of Utah. It was a pleasant surprise for me also to get similar award for my involvement with UIMF projects.

*Ruben Garces, Media/Advertising lead for the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF).*