

UIMF Participates in UN Day



(Left to Right): Zachary Wessells, Mark Driggs, and Megan Davis

On Wednesday October 24, 2018 the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) had the opportunity to participate in United Nations Day at Utah Valley University (UVU). UIMF largely did this through tabling in two different locations on UVU's campus. This was an excellent opportunity for UIMF to raise awareness of Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) issues in conjunction with raising awareness about the UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs). As always UIMF efforts for UN Day were planned and implemented by UVU students demonstrating the value and success of UVU's engaged learning model. It was my responsibility to organize UIMF's efforts for UN Day due to this being a campus event. Early on I decided that I wanted to set up two tables at different locations in order to reach more people. This meant collaborating with our vice president of logistics in order to ensure the tables were reserved and working with

fellow Campus Outreach members in order to help coordinate our efforts and schedule people to be at both tables throughout the day. Because of this preparation we were ready to accomplish each task that arose during UN day and remained flexible enough to make scheduling changes detailing people to different tables.

Tabling itself was a great opportunity for me to explain who we are and what our mission is to a variety of people. Regardless of whether a person chose to join UIMF it was fulfilling to know that each person that stopped by our table left with an awareness of mountain communities and an understanding that it takes a whole of society approach in conjunction with the SDGs in order to help mountain communities sustainably development. Accomplishing our tabling goals was only possible through the help of excellent colleagues who are dedicated to UIMF. Such students who demonstrated excellence in their work included people like Jason Haymond, Director of Campus Events who helped coordinate tabling throughout the day. I can say without a doubt that UIMF's members are dedicated professionals who are committed to sustainable mountain development.

Each day I am reminded of how fortunate I am to be surrounded with such bright individuals who every day help make UIMF a stronger organization. UN Day was an excellent day for UIMF. It allowed us to refine our skills and identify areas we need to improve in. By the end of the day UIMF had successfully advocated mountain causes in the heart of Utah Valley University and that is what made the day a success.

Mark Driggs is Vice President of Campus Outreach, UIMF