

UIMF Participates in Sustainability Day and Promotes Mountain Targets



(L to R): Megan Davis and Hagen Isaacson

On October 24th, 2018, the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) (www.utahimf.org), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), participated in the United Nations Day and Sustainability Day on campus. This was an opportunity for different groups and organizations from around the state to be able to come together and promote different ways to work towards the UN sustainable development goals (SDG). UIMF had two separate tables on campus, specifically geared towards helping further spread the ideas and initiatives of UIMF with our end goal framed towards sustainable mountain development (SMD).

At the tables, club members interacted with students and other organizations attending the event to inform them on what UIMF believes and does. Most of the

students that approached me knew almost nothing about what UIMF is about and I was able to explain to them the focused targets that we have within all of the SDGs. I spoke to a lot of people about our focus on goals 6, which deals with clean water and sanitation, and 15, which is life on land. Underneath these goals, I was able to use the posters at our table to go further in depth and explain mountain targets 6.6, 15.1, and 15.4. A lot of the students found this information interesting and took our pamphlets to learn more. We also had about eight students write down their contact information to allow them to get involved with UIMF on campus.

I also stressed the importance of SMD and the targets to other organizations at the event. We were one of the only groups that I noticed who was focusing on mountains and their sustainability. I was able to share this information with other groups who had similar causes, but didn't know a lot about the mountain aspect or didn't focus on it. For example, our table was right next to a group who was educating people on the pollutants that get into storm water. We shared our ideas with them about water cleanliness and sanitation in mountainous regions and in turn they presented information on the dangers of storm water that is happening today.

Overall, participating in Sustainability Day was a great opportunity for us to share UIMF's goals towards sustainability with other students and with other organizations working towards some of the same outcomes.

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