

An Event in Relation to the Individual

On February 19th, 2019 Utah Valley University (UVU) and Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU had the esteemed opportunity to host the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations (UN), His Excellency, Mr. Jan Kickert,.

This event was made possible by the hard work of both traditional and nontraditional students at UVU and their work conjoined with the Global Engagement office at UVU and the UIMF. It is incredible to see what a group of undergraduate students are able to accomplish when afforded the right opportunities by faculty and staff of the university.



A roundtable of students with Ambassador Jan Kickert.

Students were able to ask specific questions directed to the Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN

As a student of UVU, I am always excited to see new and interesting speakers come to not only lecture, but have a conversation with students. I often feel that UVU is overlooked, when it comes to the high-performing higher education institutions in the state. However, I believe the student's and institution's ability to bring in a speaker such as Ambassador Jan Kickert illustrates why the institution should not be overlooked.

Events akin to the hosting of such honorable dignitary are what also make me proud to be the Vice President of UIMF. The organization really focuses on getting students of all ages, and backgrounds involved in the topics that they are passionate about. I do not believe there are many other universities or even institutions that could claim such a title to say they really advocate for each individual to succeed no matter the (political or policy) interest. Many universities focus mostly or solely on the academic life of the student, but UVU and UIMF focus on the student's development as a whole so that when a student graduates they are equipped with real world knowledge that will be applicable in their career or in graduate school - or even better in both.



Students in attendance at the event on February 19th, 2019

In the future, I hope to continue to have the opportunity to be a part of and to plan events at UVU that help to advance UN Sustainable Development Goals, but also to help advance the interests of the individual student, to make sure that every student has the opportunity to grow and understand their importance and how they can not only contribute to their university but also more broadly their community.

Lacey Meyer, Vice President of Utah International Mountain Forum