

Day 1: Arriving to New York City to Advocate at CSW63

On Sunday, March 17, 2019, members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), arrived in New York City to begin their advocacy work for mountain women at the 63d Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63).

I arrived early in the morning and met up with Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, dropping off my luggage at his hotel room, according to UIMF's agenda for the event. Once my colleagues arrived, we met them at the hotel where I was introduced to a number of them. We then spent the morning exploring the city. From Times Square, to Trump Tower, to watching a Saint Patrick's Day Half Marathon, we stayed busy. Later in the afternoon, all the students got together with Professor Abdrisaev and we familiarized ourselves with the layout of the United Nations, visiting places such as the Church Center where we will present our parallel event, a number of buildings related to the United Nations, such as the UNICEF building, and the grounds outside the United Nations Headquarters. For many students, this was their first time in New York. This is a unique opportunity for them to see a city filled with America's history.



UIMF members during their tour.

Going along with the student engaged learning model, we were able to continue to get to know our classmates. Many of us are non-traditional students and the opportunity to take this trip and momentarily leave children, a job, or other commitments is rare. Being privileged with the opportunity to build genuine friendships outside the classroom is a once in a lifetime opportunity.



From left: Michael Hinatsu, Hannah Bieker, Megan Devis, and myself at Trump Tower.

I have had a great first day and am excited for the rest of the trip. I am grateful for my colleagues who have worked hard to be able to attend the Commission on the Status of Women. We are prepared and ready to represent Utah Valley University and the student engaged learning model.

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