

## UN Under Secretary General, Ms. Alison Smale speaks at UVU



On Friday, March 29, 2019 along with students and staff of Utah Valley University (UVU), Ms. Alison Smale, Under Secretary General (USG) for Global Communications, United Nations, participated in an open panel discussion on the importance and power of civil society. This panel focused on the “UN perspective” in preparation for the upcoming UN civil society conference in Salt Lake City this August. In addition to USG Ms. Smale, the panel included three UVU students, as members of the organizing committee of the UN civil society conference.

Ms. Smale opened up her presentation with sharing her established career highlights and notable degrees. Ms. Smale addressed a variety of topics involving issues such as global climate change, sustainable development, SDG #4 on education, SDG #11 on sustainable cities, as well as sustainable development goals. However, Ms. Smale emphasized the importance of youth empowerment, our influence and involvement are substantial in creating a better future. Ms. Smale was asked about the Youth 2030 strategy and if this will ensure the involvement of youth in the 2030 development agenda. Ms. Smale, stated that sustainability cannot be sustainable without the youth, the youth have an important voice when it involves Sustainable development goals and we must be willing to be heard and use our voices.

This panel event was a great example of UVU's core theme of "engaged learning" interacting and learning from a high-leader on ways that encourage youth involvement through civil society was a good experience.

*Brianna John, UVU student*