

## Richard Jordan Presentation on the Power of NGOs at the United Nations



On Wednesday, April 10, 2019, Mr. Richard Jordan, who has been in the United Nations for 22 years working with Non-Governmental Organizations, spoke about coming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN before the students and faculty at Utah Valley University (UVU). He began by praising UVU and our institutions as allowing students to learn freely in more nontraditional methods, allowing them to think ‘outside the box’ and become problem solvers for the world. He mentioned UVU platforms of ‘engaged learning’ and ‘connected learning’ and how when students are directly involved and not just learning information, great things are capable of happening. The reason he mentioned this is directly related to the presentation he did. While during the presentation he mentioned a number of NGOs and organizations working with and inside the United Nations on the grounds of human rights and the environment, such as Women and Girls in Science, the key point of this was that before 1989 this would not have been possible. According to Mr. Jordan, the UN used to be a very rigid and structured organization, and it still is. But ever since 1989, NGOs

have had the power to be able to speak directly to heads of states and their representatives in the UN in order to bring awareness, research, ideas and proposals to those that may have interest or in whose constituents may be directly influenced by these ideas. From there, the UN can decide on policy and implementation of these independent ideas and even work directly with the organizations themselves.



***(L to R): Drew Tschirki, Mr. Jordan and Austin Meline, UVU student***

Tying everything together, while not explicitly, Mr. Jordan stated, that UVU establishment with its traditions of engaged and connected learning can, and will, and even currently is, capable of changing the world through relevant ideas and problem-solving. UVU has the resources and the capability of doing great things, and this was an inspiring message for those in the audience who desire to work with the UN, or on the global scale, or even just within the community. Ideas and desire for change matter. Essentially, with the establishment of connections, which Richard Jordan is now for UVU students, the possibility for change and betterment of society grows exponentially.

There may be ideas that students have at UVU that can now be brought up to relevant persons at the United Nations that can bring global change.

*Drew Tschirki, UVU student*