

UVU Roundtable on Sustainable Development in Rural Utah


UTAH INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FORUM
PRESENTS:


AN EVENT TO EDUCATE STUDENTS IN URBAN
UTAH ABOUT THE COMPLEXITIES AND
IMPORTANCE OF RURAL UTAH'S ECONOMY,
GROWTH, AND SUSTAINABILITY.

APRIL 19TH, 2019 | 11AM - 1PM


SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
IN RURAL
UTAH:
ROUNDTABLE

EVENT WILL BE HELD IN ROOM: FL120

 **CLUBS**
UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

 **UTAH VALLEY
UVU
UNIVERSITY**

TONY MARTINES - CARBON COUNTY COMMISSIONER
NICHOLINA WOMACK - CEO FUTUREINDESIGN
MICHAEL KOURIANOS - MAYOR OF PRICE, UT
CHRISTINE WATKINS - STATE REP. DISTRICT 69
GERI GAMBER - EXEC. DIR. OF SEJALG/SUEDD
JOSHUA EMFIELD - DISTRICT DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR
CONGRESSMAN JOHN CURTIS

 **UTAH INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FORUM**
A COLLABORATION OF STUDENT CLUBS AT
UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY
WWW.UTAHIMF.ORG

EVENT PLANNED BY LACEE MEYER, VP OF UIMF

On April 19, 2019, a round table was held at Utah Valley University (UVU) on sustainable development in rural areas. The purpose of the round table was to discuss the many challenges that rural areas in Utah face and how these challenges can be overcome. The event was hosted by Lacey Meyer who is the Vice President of the Utah International Mountain Forum.

The first speaker was Mrs. Geri Gambler who spoke about the different types of rural areas that make up rural Utah. She explained that there are four types of rural communities which are: amenity rich areas, declining resource dependant areas, transitioning areas with amenities, and chronically poor areas. She also spoke about how Utah is experiencing significant growth and will continue to do so. She explained that by 2060 Utah's population is expected to double. However, almost none of that growth will occur in rural areas. She spoke about poverty in rural Utah and how young adults are leaving rural areas in order to improve their lives and benefit themselves. She spoke about how rural areas lack secondary education and a significant amount of job

opportunities. She spoke about how if we want to help rural areas grow with the rest of Utah we have to invest in these areas through education and by incentivizing outside programs to expand to them.

The second speaker was Mayor Michael Kourianos of Price, Utah. He spoke about the challenges that Price has face with its younger population leaving the area in search of better opportunities. He also spoke about the importance of diversifying the job market so that when factories or companies close down it does not cripple a town. He spoke about the coal power plant in price and how it will eventually be shut down and how that can affect the city.

The next speaker was Nicholina Womack, the CEO of FutureINDesign. Her company tries to assist rural areas by teaching the younger people necessary skills that are needed in digital world. By educating youth and adults in these skills, they are helping them become more employable to companies that would otherwise not be willing to invest in a rural area. They teach social skills and digital literacy in order to help these individuals be better prepared to face the modern job market.

The final speaker was the Carbon County Commissioner Tony Martines. He spoke about the current economic climate and conditions of rural Utah. He spoke about how the mining and power industries are the largest employers and how they are in decline. He also spoke about some of the prospects that rural Utah has such as its railway network and companies that are looking to invest in rural areas.

The final event was the round table where students were able to ask questions and discuss how we can overcome some of these challenges. Overall, these speakers were able to provide great insights and offer some solutions to the challenges that face rural Utah today. The lectures were insightful and the discussion was beneficial to everyone who attended as well as those who were unable to attend but watched the presentation at a later date.

Miles Gevas, UVU student