

UIMF members meeting with Congressman Ben McAdams



Congressman Ben McAdams discusses with UIMF members CSW63 activities

On April 23, 2019, Congressman Ben McAdams (D-UT) visited Utah Valley University (UVU), and met with members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU, who contributed to the agenda of the 63rd session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63).

We, as members of the UIMF shared with congressional representative McAdams our experiences of being the only student group in the United States to be contributed to the agenda of the highest gender-focused UN forum through student engaged learning model. We explained that the model encourages students to learn professional skills and experiences as a group by pursuing hands-on tasks while our teachers are usually have to mentor us by giving advises but not directing our actions.



Group photo with Congressman Ben McAdams

We introduced ourselves to the Congressman and told him what kind of activities we have been able to successfully accomplish at the UN. Then he thanked each individual student for a hard work and achievements, and asked us to continue to do what we have done already by promoting the Utah model of sustainability and non-traditional student's role in achieving that goal.

We also have told to Congressman Ben McAdams that we advocated for empowering mountain women and girls globally, and how they usually are neglected and again omitted from in the final documents of the CSW63. This is bad and unfair not only for them, but also for women and girls in the State of Utah and each individual mountain region in all around the world. We also explained how they are suffering from lack of financial resources and the importance to keep them and their livelihoods in the focus of the UN and international community.

By the end of our meeting, Congressman Ben McAdams thanked us again and asked to continue our great work both in the state of Utah and globally.

Abdulrahman Alghanmi, UIMF member