

STATEMENT

Dr Sara Ulloa

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I am an Associate Professor and Department Chair for the Languages and Cultures Department at Utah Valley University. I am originally from Peru and when UVU hosted the First International Women of the Mountains Conference in 2007, I was honored to be a presenter as well as represent and advocate for Women of the Mountains in the Andean region of South America. I was one of the organizers for the Third International Women of the Mountains conference in Puno, Peru and a UVU representative in Brazil for the RIO+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.

Since 2007, I have engaged with humanitarian projects and organizations to aid children in orphanages because educating society with a real context, provides sufficient information to engage community partners to support a variety of initiatives that can benefit all stakeholders.

I have been deeply captivated by the reality of some remote areas where even though women and children suffer rustic conditions, they have learned to use limited resources the best they can to stay alive and still be happy.

Currently, I am one of the advisors for the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF). Also, I am the director for the UVU Peru Study Abroad program that counts with a service learning component. For the past few years, students have been able to engage in different academic and cultural activities, and gather information for a broader and deep-rooted research about the Andean areas.

Many people in the Andes speak quechua while others in the Altiplano speak Aymara so students have engaged in a variety of socio cultural and educational dynamic settings. We still strive to motivate children and women to learn Spanish so that they can have more opportunities in their future. [Display of photos].

Thank you very much for your attention.