

Diplomatic Conference at Utah Valley University



On November 4, 2019, the Global Engagement Office at Utah Valley University (UVU) hosted the 3rd annual Utah diplomatic conference on international trade relations. The event has gathered one Ambassador, and Consul Generals from 13 countries at Grand Ballroom of UVU. Dr. Baldomero Logo, Chief International Office for Global Engagement at UVU welcomed officials from State of Utah and nationwide, diplomats, UVU faculty, students and local community representatives in the audience. Then, he briefly introduced the office of Global Engagement at UVU, explaining how it helps students to interact with local and international organizations. Dr. Logo's office helped me as well personally to travel to New York City and make a presentation at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women along with another 12 UVU students during March 2019.



Dr. Baldomero Lago speaks at the conference



Dr. Astrid Tuminez welcomes conference participants

Dr. Lago was followed by UVU's President Dr. Astrid Tuminez who has welcomed the audience for being part of this successful event. Dr. Tuminez shared some of her great life stories for being able to work in so many countries, and how through her experience, she personally felt and recognized the important role of international trade in making difference in lives of local citizens. Dr. Tuminez expressed her pleasure to see the State of Utah in the first place among the 50 States of this nation in the international trades. She also express an appreciation to the United Kingdom's Consul General for his country to be the biggest buyer from the State of Utah.



Mr. Spencer Cox, Utah's Lieutenant Governor during plenary session

Mr. Spencer Cox, Utah's Lieutenant Governor, was the next speaker after Dr. Tuminez. He also expressed his appreciation to the audience and the Consul Generals of different countries for being in the State of Utah. Through his presentation, Mr. Cox explained why Utah is a great place to invest and how knowing the second language by its citizens is popular in the State of Utah. He adds that Utah is the fast-growing economy in the United States. He also announced that Utah's goal is to be the first global trade destination in the United States.



Mr. David Utrilla speaks during plenary session,

Mr. David Utrilla, the President of Utah Consular Corps explained how his company was founded to help investors to invest in the State of Utah and successfully to connect Utahns companies with 27 nations around the world.



Ms. Christina Hernandez presentation at the conference



Ms. Shelby Daiek presents at the conference

Ms. Christina Hernandez, the regional director in the office of foreign mission, U.S Department of State, has been hired to help States like Utah to sign and implement trade agreements with other nations. Miss Hernandez has aided over 100 nations to invest in local companies in the United States. Ms. Shelby Daiek, the director of Utah export in the U.S Commercial Services, spoke how her colleagues and she help companies in the State of Utah to grow and expand both locally and internationally.



Mr. Franz Kolb speaks at the conference



Mr. Miles Hansen presents at the conference

Mr. Franz Kolb, the Director of diplomacy and protocol in the State of Utah office of foreign investment and free trade, said that “Utah is a globally-minded State”. Through his presentation, Mr. Kolb mentioned that recently more than 100 diplomats from over 70 nations have visited the State of Utah which helped the local companies and businesses to expand internationally. Mr. Miles Hansen, the President of World Trade Center in the State of Utah, in his presentation explained how important for the State of Utah to have a commercial relationship with other nations, which helps to build and strengthen people to people relationship as well.

The conference attendees were able to listen to presentations of other distinguished speakers who also spoke about how international relations with State of Utah can benefit both sides by stimulating growth of their economies and expanding markets to sell their goods.



Dr. Baldomero Logo always believes in us, UVU students, and involves in any ways possible. Like at any other events that is organized by Dr. Logo, this time I was able to learn so much about international trade and how it can affect and change people's life. I also have learned how international trade can work, and how other governmental offices and companies can help with that. I was also honored to be together with Ambassadors and Consul Generals from different countries in the same room and watch how they contribute to the international trade as well.

By Abdulrahman Alghanmi, UIMF member.