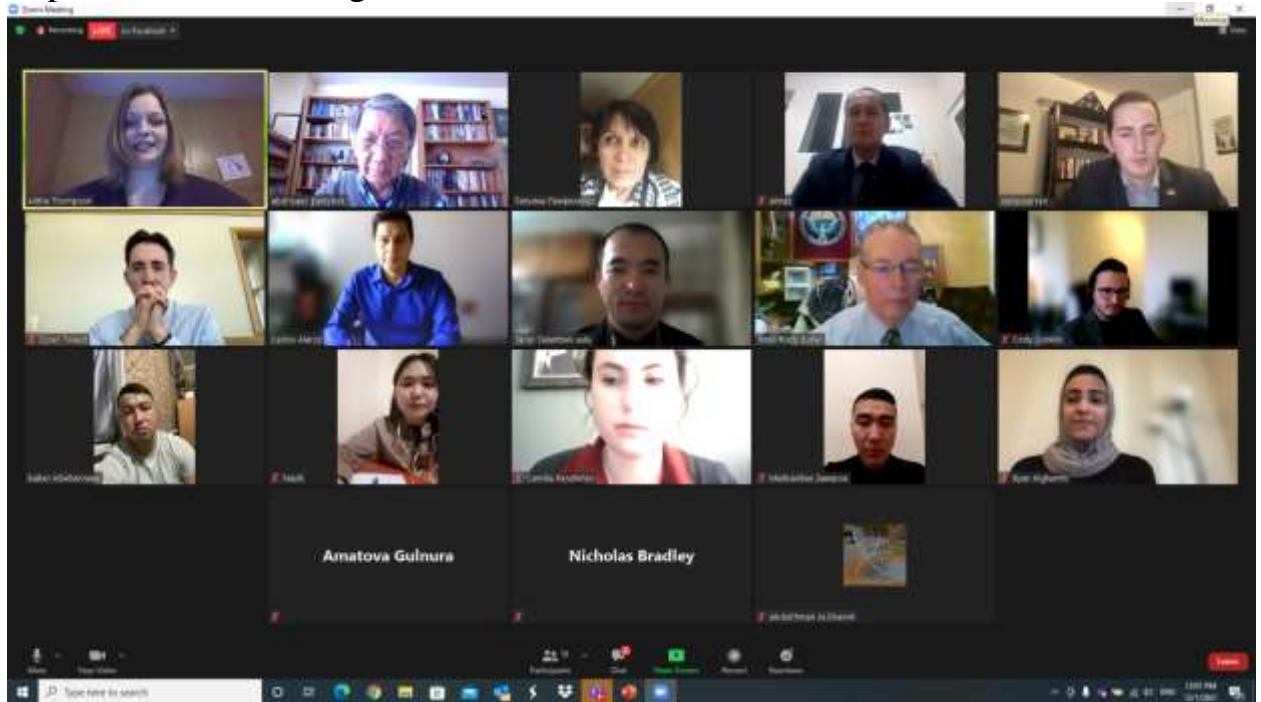


## Utah Valley University and Osh Technological University Jointly Observed the International Mountain Day

During the fall semester, 2021 faculty and students at Osh Technological University (OshTU) started to use a student-engaged learning methodology to provide students with new skills. This methodology is developed and used since 2011 at Utah Valley University (UVU) under the leadership of Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev. OshTU partnered with UVU since December 2012, when a delegation of UVU visited OshTU and jointly hosted an international conference on the impact of climate change on the livelihoods of mountain communities.



*Participants of the International Mountain Day celebration*

The main aim of this methodology is to provide students with skills helping them to solve practical issues jointly as a group activity which also allows them to learn from each other. Faculty as per this method needs to provide students advice on how to deal with assigned tasks but directly resolve them.

Since September 2020, a group of faculty and students from OshTU participated in weekly online meetings to learn how to implement this group activity under the leadership of UVU student Alitha Thompson. Alitha is also the Vice President of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU. OshTU was presented by faculty such as Dr. Almaz Atabekov, chair of the Department of Management, Tariel Talantbek uulu, Tatiana Gayratovna Panfilenko, lecturer, Department of Geology and students such as Akmatova Gulnura, Erkin kyzy Nazik, Abibillaev Baiel and Zakirov Maisalbek.



*Slide from Presentation of Abibillaev Baiel, OshTU student*

As a specific event for the implementation of the joint learning of this methodology, both sides decided to use the observation of the International Mountain Day at UVU, which was scheduled on 1 December 2021. This task was achieved because of thorough work during many days and constant weekly discussions between OshTU representatives with their American colleagues via the Internet. At the same time, this approach allowed the team to develop several skills, such as improvement of the knowledge of English, joint preparations of statements and reports, and the ability to work as a group and in a multilanguage environment. These skills without doubt contribute to the building also leadership skills among students.



### ***Abibillaev Baiel, OshTU student speaks at the event***

Based on this methodology OshTU student Abibillaev Baiel was able to prepare a presentation about the situation with tourism in Kyrgyzstan and show it on December 1st during the event dedicated to the International Mountain Day observation. His presentation caused sincere interest among the event participants and its level of preparedness witnessed the excellent and thorough work the students achieved during many days under the mentorship of mentioned already faculty from UVU and OshTU. Together with his colleague Maisalbek Zakirov, Baiel was able also to prepare a 3-minutes long video with comments in English about tourism in Osh city and Osh Valley. Tatiana Panfilenko provided advice to those students as their mentor when they needed it.



***Slide from Presentation of Abibillaev Baiel, OshTU student***

Tariel Talantbek uulu, OshTU faculty and his students Akmatova Gulnura and Erkin kyzy Nazik during the time of preparations, watched how Baiel and Maisalbek interacted in the group environment with students from UVU and learned how they need to act themselves during the next joint activity between two academic institutions.

Currently, OshTU and UVU students are preparing for making statements during the parallel event at the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women on 21 March 2022. During the event, students from both academic institutions will focus the attention of the audience on the challenges facing women from the mountain regions worldwide.

***Dr. Almaz Atabekov, Professor at OshTU***