

**STATEMENT**  
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**Utah Valley University**  
**66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women**  
**Parallel event**  
***“Inclusive Student Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain***  
***Women Globally”***  
**March 21, 2022**

Hello everyone.

The student engaged learning method has affected my life as well. The SEL method allows not only for traditional students, but for students of all ages to get an education and be advanced professionally. Traditional students are usually students who are younger than 24 years old and their main goal is to finish their education. Non-traditional students are older than 25 and must balance their education with their family and work responsibilities. The SEL method is designed to give maximum empowerment to all students. We believe that we all have unique voices and experiences.

Within the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs here at Utah Valley University, we have a broad range of students. I am a traditional student. We have a mom of 5 children who works alongside her kids, a student coming back after finishing his professional cycling career, a Theater/Political Science major who is directing the US premiere of Wendy and Peter Pan. We have law students, husbands, students who are fresh out of high school and many others. **No matter where we have come from, or what our motivation is for higher education.** We are all united under a common passion of mountain regions and the promise of a higher quality of life and we are stronger because of our diversity.

The SEL method takes all our different experiences and skills and works to maximize them for the good of mountain communities. We are able to have a fuller education because we teach each other through these experiences to provide a complete picture of global issues. We also work together to provide high quality presentations to world leaders such as yourself, as we combine our skills, time and

resources so no one is overwhelmed. We then take our experiences after each event and write a brief that is posted on our website to help future students globally to learn and be able to accomplish the same experiences.

Today we are hosting a parallel event as part of the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women at Noon on March 21st, 2022, at the UN headquarters, in New York, US. The event is titled “The Inclusive Student Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain Women Globally. This event, from the advertisement and logistics to the speeches, are all completed through a student delegation. We have built a network of students worldwide that works together to give a voice to these mountain communities. We are currently working with Osh Technological University in Kyrgyzstan, The Rotary club, and Snow college in Rural Utah.