

International Mountain Day Observed at Utah Valley University



Dr. Lago, UVU Chief International Official spoke during the event at UVU

In the 13th International Mountain Day Celebrations at Utah Valley University (UVU) on December 6, 2022, there was a lot to take in as there were some amazing people who were speaking to us. The theme this year for the International Mountain Day is that women move mountains. Which around the world is a very important thing because in other Nations outside the United States women do not have the same rights as male's do in so many different ways. It is a very important topic now days and important for people to continue to fight for women's rights so that they

can have the equal rights as men all over the world. There were two people who spoke that I want to highlight and go over what they shared with us that will give us even more insight on the importance of women moving mountains, those two are Doctor Lago and Doctor Rusty Butler who gave us amazing insights on their objectives.

First is Dr. Baldomero Lago who is the UVU Chief International Official who has done a lot of the International Mountain Day programs and has made many great friendships with people who have done a lot of great things internationally. He shared with us 2 of the reasons why they put this together and why it is important. Number one is to create awareness of Mountains. The Timpanos mountains are spectacular to faces that have not seen before and so they strive to share the importance of life and the impact mountains have on people. They create fresh water, help farmers farm and so it is important to take care of them. The second thing is they highlight the potential of Mountains. Meaning that they share with people the impact mountains have on the economy and international and what they mean to people who live near them. Dr Lago then shared with us that the theme this year that they decided to focus on is that women move mountains. The things that will be focused on this category are gender equality, improving social equality to the rest of the world.

The next person who got up and talked to us was Dr. Rusty Butler the SMD Advocacy and who oversaw the international relationship inside Utah Valley University. He shared with us what the student engaged learning (SEL) model is since 2011 an inclusive, cocurricular, student-engaged learning model at this University which encourages both nontraditional and traditional students to work as a group to advocate for mountain regions with faculty serving as mentors.



Dr. Rusty Butler, main representative at the United Nations for the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences spoke during the event at UVU

Most non-traditional students are often women and mothers who contribute their experiences based on their knowledge as local representative of mountain communities. The Mountain Partnership members contribute their own skills, experiences, initiatives/projects and funds to implement sustainable mountain development while gaining professional skills of their own. Since a lot of focus is on women, they have held Women of the Mountains conferences that focus on how they can help women get equality all over the world which was a big focused he shared with us.

From all this it informs us well about the importance of what mountains bring to communities. Bringing communities together to keep the mountains safe and a clean place to be provides resources for the people that live there. It was also a big focus to us about Women who move mountains and why they are important to the world.

Not all women in the world have the equality with men and are forced to dress and act certain ways that are not equal of how the men live. So, they bring this attention to the United States and other Countries looking for opportunities to help other Nations to have more equality for women. Helping them find a ways to get involved in their own communities to start to make a change. This really did help me look at what others face in the world and maybe I can help make a change too.

Tanner Lofthouse, Utah Valley University student