

## **PREPARATORY DAY OF CSW67**

As a UIMF Delegation Member, I started the journey to New York City today to speak at the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Since the moment we entered the airport in Salt Lake City, UIMF members have worked together to make the trip to the UN CSW67 a great success. Stephan, Handen, Hendrix, Joshua, Chance, Winnie, and I met at the terminal and flew to our layover in LAX. On the flight, we reviewed our speeches and prepared for the parallel event “Empowering Mountain Women through Inclusive Student-engaged Learning Educational Initiative” happening tomorrow on March 6, 2023.

While our flight from LAX to JFK was slightly delayed, we took the time to rest. I had a great time connecting with Winnie who I met for the first time. I learned she is also a political science major at Utah Valley University. She is studying international politics. Once we got into New York City, we met Rotaract President Trisitin Juarez-Smith. We got lunch at a lovely diner which was near the UN conference center.



**The Morning Star Cafe where UIMF Delegation Members ate lunch.**

UIMF members then picked up their UN passes for the week. Even when there were difficulties unlocking the first Airbnb, Alitha and Tristin worked tirelessly to get us New York pizza (my first!) and get us warm and comfortable in the second Airbnb. My contribution to the team was getting the door open for the first Airbnb and helping bring in luggage while others picked up food for breakfast.



**UIMF Delegation Members waiting to pick up their passes for the UN CSW67.**

While it was a long day of travel and preparation, I am that much more excited to speak tomorrow and attend the other amazing events happening during the conference. During my participation in the UN CSW67, I hope to make connections with leaders from around the world, make an impact through my speech, have a notebook full of takeaways for when I get back home, and bond with my fellow UIMF members.

***Natalie Williams, UIMF Delegation Member at CSW67***