

Student Engagement in United Nations CSW67 Mechanisms through UIMF

On, Tuesday, March 07, 2023, The United Nations received a delegation from Utah Valley University (UVU) in support of the Commission on the Status of Women Sixty-Seven (CSW67) in their New York headquarters concurrent with ongoing general assembly and security council sessions. UVU, in tangent with supporting NGOs and the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) aimed to present research and advocate support for the Commission on the Status of Women through UVU's Student Engaged Learning Model (SEL).

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is an annual event organized by the United Nations (UN) to discuss and promote gender equality and women's empowerment around the world, an event in many UVU students attended in person and which I was able to participate in virtually. All those who participated were able to engage with experts from many different backgrounds and work in collaboration with high-level political and administrative leaders within the UN.

I, like many others, am a firm believer that effective communication and collaboration with community members and non-state actors are essential in achieving all sustainable development goals (SDGs) and objectives pursuant to the UN 2030 Agenda. Thus, the ability to work in collaboration with former Kyrgyz Republic Ambassador Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev and his UVU delegation to the United Nations CSW67 where I spoke virtually in our parallel event was especially impactful. UVU's UIMF parallel event, "Empowering Mountain Women through Inclusive Student-Engaged Learning Educational Initiative," was an especially impactful event for the advocacy of mountain women via the combination of extensive works from dozens of researchers. The key aspect of this event included the presentation of research and advocacy on the Student Engaged Learning Model (SEL) for the benefit of mountain communities and mountain women.



Photo taken during UVU's United Nations CSW67 Side Event by Maren-Machel Ostlund as Carter B. Darger presents.

I was given the opportunity to present my research and experience on the SEL. Importantly, I presented research that UVU's co-curricular, inclusive student-engaged learning model, or SEL, provides non-traditional or adult students incentives and opportunities to continue education realized in SEL's inclusion of families through group learning and flexible, technology-based activity scheduling. Through SEL non-traditional students are able to take initiative in furthering their education and developing professional skills to benefit their community. As local representatives, they contribute their experiences and distinctive leadership to group structures and the implementation of advocacy activities. Ultimately, my findings supported UVU's identification that SEL presents women and their communities with an inexpensive channel where local, hyper-targeted projects are implemented and promoted to mobilize the public, empower women, build collective local power, and develop their local economies sustainably.

UVU was able to showcase their findings and effectively champion the furthering of women's status through this event and gave researchers and students the ability to further their communication skills and work in tandem with relevant UN procedures and bodies as well as state

representatives, UN IGOs, and other NGOs. UVU's delegation team and I were all able to further our communication and collaboration proficiencies through this event, and are further prepared to participate in high-level United Nations and IGO operations in the future as competent and effective leaders.

The recording of this event is available to the public at https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1259136914715909

- Carter B. Darger - Utah Valley University Rotaractor Member