

## **CSW 67 Parallel Event Day**

On March 6th, Utah Valley University (UVU) Rotaractors traveled to the United Nations 67th Commission on the Status of Women to present in a parallel event. Rotaract is a student club that works with Rotary International to provide students service opportunities in their community. Rotaract gives opportunities to students to be involved in different activities through the Student Engaged Learning (SEL) model. SEL places focus on providing students hands-on experience in their field of study, and makes my education feel more practical since I can see how I may apply it after graduating.



### **Student Delegation sets out to the United Nations in preparation for the parallel event**

Setting out in preparation for our parallel event today, our delegation got up and ready to go fairly quickly. We got to experience parts of downtown Manhattan before arriving at the UN buildings. Exploring this part of New York opened many of our eyes to parts of life that people from mountain communities like Utah seldom get to see. Experiencing a city life certainly made me more aware of a different side of life and the ways different people will have different needs in other parts of the globe, even in the most urbanized places.

Once we arrived at the UN, we were able to take a group photo with a historic number of students representing Utah Valley University.



**Student Delegation outside UN Headquarters**

The student delegation was able to see the United Nations Headquarters for themselves, most of us for the first time in our lives. Soon after seeing several sights at the UN, like the art gifts from different nations around the world, we toured the library and the delegation gifted the United Nations Library physical copies of the student papers “Why It Matters.”

Later in the day, the student delegation was able to have a short meeting with the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan. After talks of partnership and extensions of friendship, the PR was given several gifts, among those was a pen made of materials from both Utah and Kyrgyzstan.



**Tristin Smith presents the PR of Kyrgyzstan with the history of Utah Valley University**

The representative was officially invited to visit the campus of Utah Valley University in the Fall. Utah Valley University will be delighted to host madam ambassador in the future, further strengthening the bond between Utah and Kyrgyzstan.

After this meeting, preparations for the parallel event began. All the students coordinated to set up the first collaborative group effort of the trip. The event started in a filled room as each student went on to give their own address. I am personally grateful to have had the opportunity to speak on the things close to my heart, celebrating women, community, and the Student Engaged Learning model. Let this be the start of a very fruitful and formative three day experience at CSW 67.

***Chance Simons, Rotaract Delegation Member at CSW67***