

## **My presentation during a parallel event at CSW67**

On March 6th - 8th, Utah Valley University (UVU) Rotaractors like myself 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. As a student club Rotaract provides opportunities for students like me to be involved in different activities through a 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. UVU Rotaract is a member of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU which advocates for sustainable mountain development in the State of Utah and globally.



***Utah Valley University Rotaractors in front of the United Nations headquarters***

Events on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, our delegation started with photos at the United Nations, and a meeting with the Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations, Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva. We gave her a formal invitation to Utah Valley University and expressed our desire for more interaction between the state of Utah and the Kyrgyz Republic.



***Hendrix Bailey speaks during the parallel event***

We then hosted a parallel event at the United Nations Church Building at 2:30pm where we gave our speeches to the United Nations. The title of the parallel event focused on empowering mountain women through inclusive student engaged learning initiatives. The purpose of this event was to showcase student engaged learning initiatives in action through our speeches and research. I also had the opportunity to meet some delegates from Ukraine and talk to them briefly about the geopolitical situation in their country. They then allowed me to take a photo with a flag they brought that was signed by a Ukrainian general.



***Hendrix Bailey with a flag signed by a Ukrainian general.***

In conclusion, I found that many of the delegates at the United Nations were very open to dialogue with anyone in the audience. It fosters an environment of learning and cooperation, which is perfect for the UN's purpose. I also found that sometimes all it takes to make a change is to reach out, and I hope to be able to use these skills in my future career.

***Hendrix Bailey, UVU Rotaractor***