

Virtually Presenting at the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women



On March 6 2023, the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University, hosted a parallel event during the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I was honored by the opportunity to be one of the virtual speakers that afternoon, an opportunity made possible by the UIMF and their encouragement of student participation and involvement with their visit to the United Nations. This was also the highlight of our class on Globalization and Sustainable Development, which was implemented through integration of UIMF club members' activities in the curriculum.



Jake Lamoreaux, UVU Rotaractor speaking during the parallel event

The event itself ran rather smoothly, with the only exceptions being caused by technical difficulties. I was very fortunate that this didn't affect my speech, although when I wasn't speaking

my webcam on my laptop was glitching out. Like many of my fellow speakers, I highlighted the importance of the Student Engaged Learning model as a means to empower members of our communities to be able to make their voices heard on the issue of sustainable development within our homes. The SEL model encourages students at UVU, traditional and non-traditional alike, to work together to find solutions while also having faculty members being able to serve as mentors. I also talked about efforts and challenges going on in France to achieve more sustainable development in rural areas, since this is my area of focus I am researching for my Globalization and Sustainable Development course. This is how most of the speakers from our class examined the issue of SD and the role mountain women can play in achieving it but have been left out of the decision-making process. It was a very well-rehearsed and well planned process preparing each of our speeches and for me it made giving the speech itself so much less stressful than it would be in a less prepared state. This process was also a group effort with making sure that the speech highlights important themes, with credit going to our professor Baktybek Abdrisaev and our UIMP President Alitha Thompson in that process, and rehearsing the program as a class to understand the flow of the event.

Once again, it was a tremendous honor and opportunity to speak at the UN to highlight the SEL model as a valuable educational tool for communities around the world. I am a strong believer in the power of education as a means to enable people to get involved in their local communities to be able to develop a more inclusive and sustainable way forward.

Jake Lamoreaux, UVU Rotaractor