

## Hosting a Parallel Event at the 67th Commission on the Status of Women

On March 6, 2023, I spoke at the Parallel Event: Empowering Mountain Women Through Inclusive Student-Engaged Learning Educational Initiative



*Rachel Welker, UIMF Delegate Member*

The United Nations Library's collection has comprised eighteen million documents since 1945. Digital archivists have scanned historic manuscripts into digital files for easier access and preservation. Touring the UN Library during our visit deepened my love of written documents and the pieces of history they safeguard. I am

in awe that this parallel event has the honor of becoming part of the itinerary for the 67th Commission on the Status of Women.



***Alitha Thompson, UIMF President, and Rachel Welker, Rotaract Delegate Member, preparing printed copies of Parallel Event speeches***

Double-checking the details of our documents was an integral part of preparing for our parallel event. While rehearsals and event construction had taken place well in advance of CSW67, minute adjustments at a New York City office supply store were necessary. How we printed our speeches and the length of each address would impact the success of our event.



***Rotaract Members rehearse speeches in preparation for the parallel event.***

The theme for CSW67 is “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.” Our event worked through the idea that education is a conduit for women and girl empowerment in today's digital age. I wrote my speech knowing from my own experience that learning how to connect and interact with government structures can change a person’s ability to thrive in their neighborhood, even though the change may appear incremental.



*Rachel Welker delivers speech: How SEL Empowers Women's Civic Engagement*

Participating at CSW67 this week will be a springboard for future success. Learning to join global conversation effectively will impact how I approach my personal and career endeavors. United Nations forums allow for cooperation between people of diverse economic, cultural, and political backgrounds, crossing nation-state boundaries. In these short few hours, I have seen how continuing education provides people, women and girls, the platform to become more than problem solvers but community contributors.

***Rachel Welker, UIMF Delegation Member***