

Abe Weisler
Utah Valley University student
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Parallel event
“Empowering Mountain Women Economically Through an Inclusive Student-Engaged Learning.”
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Good morning, everybody.

My name is Abraham Weisler, and I am a non-traditional student studying towards a Political Science degree here at Utah Valley University with a focus on Global Politics.

I was born here in Utah but grew up entirely in the suburbs of Chicago, an urban melting pot that contrasts starkly with the mountain environment here in the Western United States. Upon graduating high school, I lived in New York City for two years as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, mostly among the Hispanic communities there. It was common for the congregation at church to have individuals and families from 15+ different countries, many of them specifically from mountain regions. That experience gave me a unique perspective on the opportunity that living in America symbolizes for much of the rest of the world. The United States does not only represent the ‘American Dream’, but also a dream of equality for women to be empowered as rich contributors in their community.

After my mission trip, I moved here to Utah for my studies, and have enjoyed the rich heritage of women empowerment that this state offers. The mountain communities of Utah and Wyoming were the first two states to guarantee and protect women’s suffrage, passing those laws before even being granted statehood in 1870 and 1869, respectively. I am now married to a woman from this beautiful state, and we have a little girl who was born last year, which has reaffirmed my dedication to advocating for continued women's empowerment.

I am extremely grateful to be involved with Student Engaged Learning (SEL) organizations here at UVU, which helps students like me get involved with the University as well as with local community leaders and industry professionals who all share these crucial goals. I have been able to rub shoulders with impressive men and women who have shared their journey of advocacy with us, mentoring the next generation of leaders, stewards, and visionaries.

Together with you, our combined efforts to empower women both here in Utah and around the world will help inspire excellence, create community, and ensure that the opportunities that have been afforded to me and my colleagues become a reality for many others.

Thank you.