



TALKING POINTS

61st Commission on the Status of Women
Utah International Mountain Forum
March 20-23, 2017



Tony Medina – President, UIMF (2014-2016)

-The UIMF engages Utah Valley University students in the advocacy of the gender issues as part of the United Nations Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) agenda as an extracurricular, experiential learning initiative. As a result, we were able to contribute in many ways to SMD promotion in North America and inclusion of mountain targets among SDGs in 2015. I'm personally glad for being able to lead student efforts in hosting the Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference in 2005.

-Last year, I represented the UIMF at the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. This was the first time a UVU delegation attended the commission.

-Due to the fact that our coalition always raises funds itself for our projects and initiatives, we have to raise enough funds to host the Women of the Mountain Conference (WOMC) annually. The WOMC alternates every year from sites between Utah and one of the mountain nations overseas.

Regan Warner – President, SMD Club

-The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) is a coalition of several different clubs on the campus of Utah Valley University

- Together these clubs work under the umbrella of the UIMF to sponsor events which 1) raise awareness of mountain sustainability topics, 2) bring the public into contact with international guests and foreign dignitaries, and 3) bring communities together to recognize their shared mountainous heritage.

-Our Mission Statement is to promote the gender and sustainability of the world's Mountain Environments and livelihoods through youth efforts, and community-engaged learning both locally and globally through advocacy, networking, knowledge sharing, and exchanges of best practices.

-We plan in the fall to gather a round table to discuss how NGOs and universities need to work together to advocate mountain targets at the UN. Taking into account our cooperation with your mission we would like to invite you to be part of our forum.

Christian Jensen V – President, UIMF

-We would like to inform you that our coalition of student clubs at UVU hosted the Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference under the umbrella of the FAO-UN in Orem in October 7-9, 2015.

-For the first time ever such a high level UN forum was hosted through efforts of the STUDENTS ONLY.

-One of the most important features of our model is that the majority of our members are non-traditional students, who have to balance their work and family responsibilities with education.

-Our conference was gathered one week after the historic UN sustainable development summit in New York which adopted the SDGs as a follow up to it.

-The conference has been hosted since 2007 as a grass roots forum to promote gender and the Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) agenda of the United Nations in North America.

Munkhbat Batmunkh - Vice President, UIMF

-Our coalition of clubs was featured in the 2016, Secretary General's Report. The Utah International Mountain Forum hosted the fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference at Utah Valley University in October 2015 to address the critical issues faced by women and children living in mountainous regions across the globe and provide a forum to discuss gender equality.

-The report emphasizes the work we did in goal 5, 6, and 15

-We students have been actively engaged in promoting the Sustainable Mountain Development Agenda and gender equality in particular, since 2007.

-We are excited to work with you and the United Nations in the implementation of post the 2030 agenda.