



# STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT  
GOVERNOR

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SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 4, 2017

Ms. Diane Acevedo  
Vice-President  
Utah International Mountain Forum  
c/o Dr. Baldomero Lago  
Office of Global Engagement  
Utah Valley University  
LA114B-MS124  
Orem, Utah 84058

Dear Ms. Acevedo,

The United Nations first established International Mountain Day in 2003 with the intent to raise awareness about the importance of ensuring sustainable development goals among mountain communities worldwide. Oftentimes these communities are the poorest and most vulnerable in the world – facing the challenges of migration, hunger, climate change, and more.

The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), will celebrate United Nations International Mountain Day (IMD) on December 4th. The theme for this year's event will be '*Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger, migration.*' Dr. Baldomero Lago, Vice President of Global Engagement and also the Honorary Consul of Spain in Utah, will be the keynote speaker. I have had the opportunity to meet Dr. Lago on many occasions and I am confident that he will deliver a very engaging presentation.

I congratulate the Utah International Mountain Forum for raising awareness of the blight and challenges faced by communities across the world. I am also delighted to learn that Utah Valley University will be admitted as an Associate Member of the United Nations in New York. This will provide faculty and students an opportunity to build important bridges between Utah and the world. Congratulations on this tremendous new responsibility and honor, and best wishes for a successful International Mountain Day.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Herbert  
Governor