

## Sustainability Day Panel at Utah Valley University



***President of the Model United Nations, Andrew Jensen, participates on a panel of leaders in sustainability from around UVU's campus.***

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 I had the opportunity to represent the Utah International Mountain Forum on the panel entitled "Engaging with the World Sustainably: Business, Rhetoric, Politics and Science." I was joined by Jerry Peterson, Associate Professor of English at UVU; John Pilmer, Marketing Communications Adviser; Justin White, Assistant Professor of Earth Science at UVU; and Maria Blevins, Assistant Professor of Communication, UVU. The panel began with each of the members giving a brief 5-7-minute presentation on their specialty. For my portion, I highlighted how we were able to present in the United Nations about our contribution to the

implementation of three mountain targets beginning with our connection to the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. I then highlighted our mission of connecting UVU's policies of engaged and inclusive learning to the mission of the SDGs. I then spoke about our activities in New York including the Ambassadors we met, the other foreign dignitaries we had meetings with, and other U.N. and outside NGO officials. I then followed by highlighting the different upcoming activities including the UVU NGO Conference in October of 2018, the UNDPI Conference in August of next year, and lastly, the coming 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women and High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development 2019. I discussed upcoming challenges including passing a resolution, adjusting language into official documents, and hosting the UNDPI Conference. Lastly, I was able to invite everyone to become part of the Model United Nations, Foreign Affairs, UIMF, and SMD clubs. I also invited everyone to be a part of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations by individually acting to advance each SDG.

After everyone had presented, the panel then took questions that included: "How can developed countries assist under-developed countries?", and "How can we assist in sustainable development by buying locally?". Overall, this was a great experience and opportunity for the Utah International Mountain Forum to advocate for sustainable mountain development in a school-wide platform. I appreciated the opportunity to address the gathered group of peers, adults, and local leaders.

***Andrew Jensen, President, Model United Nations***