

2019 International Women's Day at UVU



On March 8th, 2019 a group of panelists came to campus in honor of National Women's Day. These women are in positions of power and are an inspiration to women all across Utah. Utah Valley University had the privilege to host these women and represent the holiday all while giving them the opportunity to speak upon their successes and pass along words of wisdom to their audience, me being one of them.

Annie Davis, representing the mayor's office in SLC; Chris Redgrave, Zions Bank's senior vice president; Ann Takasaki, chairwoman of the board for Big Ocean Woman; Antonella Packard, state director of LULAC Utah; and Brylee Bromley, UVU student body chief of staff were the panelists to speak on the importance of women in power and shared their own experiences in a male-dominated workforce.

A question was raised regarding what the panelists felt are significant barriers of women in the work-field. The topic of separation between men and women involving wage gaps, leadership, and representation was one that everyone agreed and elaborated on. To start off, it was

clarified that differences in gender exist in terms of men having more risk orientation therefore, only absorbing some knowledge will do. Meanwhile, women need to obtain the entire knowledge in order to barely match the levels of men. There was an incident where one of the women didn't get the jobs he applied for, and when she asked for an explanation, she was told because she fortunately has a husband who can support her financially, whereas the man she competed against is the head of his household meaning he, more than a woman, needs this job. You would think people now and days are discriminated against towards their race, but in this case, these women said they have been looked down upon in the workforce due to their gender. If these examples don't highlight what is wrong in the job industry between men and women, nothing else will.

Utah isn't doing so great with women representation, it is in fact one of the last states on the list. Progress for women in the workforce is decent, but it is not fast enough. It shouldn't be about men versus women, rather we should work together. We can't elevate women, until we elevate men.

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