

Helping with the Sustainable Development in Utah Roundtable

UTAH INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FORUM
PRESENTS:

AN EVENT TO EDUCATE STUDENTS IN URBAN
UTAH ABOUT THE COMPLEXITIES AND
IMPORTANCE OF RURAL UTAH'S ECONOMY,
GROWTH, AND SUSTAINABILITY.

APRIL 19TH, 2019 | 11AM - 1PM

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
IN RURAL
UTAH:
ROUNDTABLE

EVENT WILL BE HELD IN ROOM: FL120

 **CLUBS**
UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

 **UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY**

TONY MARTINES - CARBON COUNTY COMMISSIONER
NICHOLINA WOMACK - CEO FUTUREINDESIGN
MICHAEL KOURIANOS - MAYOR OF PRICE, UT
CHRISTINE WATKINS - STATE REP. DISTRICT 69
GERI GAMBER - EXEC. DIR. OF SEUALG/SUEDD
JOSHUA EMFIELD - DISTRICT DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR
CONGRESSMAN JOHN CURTIS

 **UTAH INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FORUM**
A COLLABORATION OF THE BEST EDUCATORS
UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

EVENT PLANNED BY LACEE MEYER, VP OF UIMF
WWW.UTAHIMF.ORG

This semester I had the opportunity to help in planning for the Sustainable Development in Utah Roundtable, which was hosted by my peers, Lacey Meyer, on April 19, 2019. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the actual event, due to a conflict in my schedule, but I was still able to be somewhat involved and aid in the event. My task for this event was the create introductions for each of the six speakers who were hosted during the roundtable. In the process of writing these, I learned the value of engaged learning thanks to a class and more about issues surrounding sustainable development.

Prior to this class, I would not have been even aware that an event like this was taking place, let alone participate in planning it. With the engaged learning classroom model, I learned of this event, and others like it, and how I could play a role in making it happen successfully. Although I was at first apprehensive because I did not know what task I could complete successfully, that issue was quickly resolved. I reached out to Meyer for advice on what task would be a good fit based on my interests and abilities, and she was kind enough to show me which tasks may be most beneficial for me to complete. That is how I ended up involved in the event and in writing the introductions for each speaker.

In order to write these introductions, I had to go through a bit of research to learn more about the speakers. This task ended up not only being the basis of my written introductions, but it also helped me to understand elements of the issue of sustainable rural development. Some of the speakers are representatives in the government and researching them allowed me to learn more about local government in rural Utah and what many of the people in those places want and are concerned about. Many of them are worried about the lack of traditional fossil fuel industry jobs being taken away. While environmental changes and limiting greenhouse gases is crucial, the plight and subsistence of people living in communities most affected by these changes are concerns that must be taken into account. One such way to ensure these people have jobs while also eliminating harmful industries, is to train the people in other lines of work. Technology is one sector that could be part of this solution. In my research on the speakers, I learned about an organization, FutureINDesign, that is taking a stand on the lack of technology education, especially for rural, low-income, or minority majority areas. While I am grateful to have learned how I can contribute to events that bring awareness on important local issues, such as this one, I am even more grateful for what I learned in researching these individuals.

Thanks to engaged learning, I was able to learn of my own capabilities in contributing to events, while learning of an important issue that impacts many people in my own state. I was also able to work with and make new friends in the process. Working alongside them, I learned the value in collaboration. As an environmental studies minor, issues concerning sustainability are extremely important to me, which made this event and helping with it even more appealing to me. In the process of researching and writing about the speakers of this roundtable, I was able to expand my knowledge of sustainable development in rural areas. This is not a simple issue with a single,

easy answer. However, discussing it and bringing awareness to it is vital in order to create change, which is what this event did. I am glad I was able to be part of it in some small way.

Mariah Todd, UVU student