

Representing UVU Rotaract at the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference



From August 26th to the 28th, I had the privilege to attend the monumental United Nations Civil Society Conference in Salt Lake City. Never before has the United Nations gathered outside of New York for such an event. As a long time, resident of

Utah, I was proud to see my hometown welcome such a wonderful group of esteemed individuals and NGO's gather to discuss building inclusive and sustainable cities and communities. I am grateful for my time with learning and discussing with so many bright and hopeful minds.

My involvement with the conference centers around the Rotaract Club at Utah Valley University, of which I am privileged to be serving as president through 2020. Throughout the world, rotary international is successful NGO that has helped to aid tens of thousands of individuals. While much of the work of the Utah Valley Rotaract has been supporting local efforts for advancement, such an event as the United Nations Conference help us to expand our horizons to encompass a much larger picture.

As shown in the picture above, Utah International Mountain Forum was very active in the event. Utah Valley University Rotaract is a member of the Mountain Forum. The success of the presentation offered by UIMF on the final day of the conference as well as a combined effort from several of the rotary groups in their presentation on their efforts for the global eradication of polio at the same time is an amazing achievement. Orem Rotary, the parent club of Utah Valley



University Rotaract can be seen here promoting their efforts among the many other NGOs being displayed at the conference. Rotary's heavy involvement in the eradication of Polio worldwide is one of the club's high priorities in addition to positive peace and local sustainability.



On my first day of the conference, I had the opportunity to attend a panel that was conducted in conjunction with Utah Valley University. The panel included speakers such as Utah Valley Universities current President Astrid S. Tuminez and Chief of United Nations Academic Impact Ramu Damodaran. The panel focused on building inclusive communities through education. They stressed the need to bring the rising generation up on a higher level of learning, as well as helping people to escape poverty through education. Following inline with the efforts of both UIMF and Rotary International, this panel was truly inspiring.

Overall, the conference was a great success that allowed for discussion and collaboration for meeting the 2030 United Nations sustainable development goals. I was happy to see so many people from around the world coming together to try and learn and share so that they could better understand the world around them. The movement of youth was inspiring as well, High school students and college student like myself were able to encourage youth involvement in these global efforts by supporting volunteerism and engaged learning in our own communities.



Kyle Warren, President Utah Valley University Rotaract