

On the 10th International Mountain Day Celebration at Utah Valley University



On Monday December 2nd, 2019, students at Utah Valley University were given the opportunity to attend the 10th International Mountain Day Celebration event. This event was held in the Office for Global Engagement and was open to the public. A number of prominent speakers were in attendance and notable student leaders as well. This event highlighted the importance of youth in the activities of the Utah International Mountain Forum and in establishing sustainable mountain communities overall.



Samuel Elzinga, President, UIMF speaks during IMD

The event opened with the moderator, Viktoriia Bahrii the Vice President of Logistics with UIMF and Samuel Elzinga the President of UIMF giving a few opening and welcoming remarks. Students then heard from Dr. Baldomero Lago the CIO/Vice-Rector for Global Engagement at UVU. He spoke on his work and the work of the University in getting the United Nations to Salt Lake and our current partnership continuing partnership with the UN. Following Dr. Lago was Dr. Rusty Butler, the main representative at the UN for the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. He spoke on the difficulties facing women in mountainous communities namely those in Central Asia. After Dr. Butler was Ms. Wendy Jyang the President of Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce. She spoke of her work with this organization and how they have worked to help women and others in Utah and abroad. The last of the first speakers was Mr. Uday Teki the founder and CEO of Project Work Groups. He spoke on the partnership of his organization with Utah Valley University and its student organizations, along with the general work of Project Work Groups.



Mr. Michael Hinatsu speaks to the audience on UIMF activities

There was a short intermission between speakers but the last half was entirely dedicated to the students that have been involved with UIMF. The first speaker was Ms. Lacey Meyer the Vice President of UIMF. She spoke about her work with UIMF and about the issues facing communities in Central Utah. After Ms. Meyer was Mr. Michael Hinatsu another Vice President for UIMF. He spoke to us on the activities of the UIMF organization namely working within UN sustainable goals.



Mr. Samuel Elzinga (L) presents Austin Meline (R) with a certificate

During and after this event certificates were presented to the speakers and to those who have been a part of the UIMF organization. These certificates were officially recognized by the United Nations. I had the pleasure of being one of those awarded said certificates. In addition to this I was able to provide live streaming services for the event and to provide the introduction for one of the speakers. After this event I was able to meet with and market with most of the speakers.

This was an excellent opportunity for myself and others to become more involved in sustainable development activities. Utah Valley University's student body and faculty work hard to create an environment of engaged learning and it truly shows.

Austin Meline, UIMF member