

The great recognition of UN Secretary General of UIMF activities at CSW62



Being a leader and member of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) for a few years, I was afforded the honor and pleasure of participating at the 62nd United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) and hosting our side and parallel event in March of 2018.



Dylan Genes (fifth from the left) with UVU delegation during a side event at CSW62

My involvement in this Initiative through UVU's engaged learning program, and with the help and guidance of my colleagues, has provided me with ample opportunity to see how politics work on a global scale through one of the largest and most successful international organizations to date, the UN. Not only did I gain insight into the international political process, but also left a lasting impression on world matters, which few get to do in a lifetime. It is hard to fathom that even after close to two years later, our hard work and efforts had not gone unnoticed and was highlighted in the 2019 UN Secretary General's report on Sustainable Mountain Development (P10)

UIMF members came together to achieve such recognition by promoting mountain sustainability through presentations that students put together in their fields of study, in the name

of improving the status of women in similar regions to that of Utah. It is in this that the UIMF strive to share ideas and knowledge from experts and locals in mountainous communities that better the lives of everyone, while focusing on sustainability.

Knowing that I was able to help make a difference and progress myself further with newfound skills in communication and networking has really turned out to be a boon for me since hosting these events at the UN. Being able to sell my ideas by fundamentally bringing them to understanding for others has been paramount to the success I've experienced since, and that I am soon to experience in the future. Since CSW62, I have been focusing on pursuing a graduate program and involvement in the State Department. With such a great nod of recognition, this event has renewed my efforts and ambitions to pursue my goals and dreams to participate in the political world with the focus of improving it for the generations that follow.

Dylan Genes, UIMF member