

Distinguished Guests Present on Utah and Morocco's Strong Partnership

A round table at Utah Valley University on March 10, 2020, titled Utah and Morocco: Inside Modern American Diplomacy, talked about the partnership of Utah and Morocco. As a student helping with this on a committee for this event, I was pleased to welcome to Utah Valley University Honorary Consul Keith Martin, retired General Jefferson Burton, Lieutenant-Colonel Dustin Carroll, and a representative of the Department of Defense, a Moroccan named Mrs. Fatima Taki.



Speakers of the distinguished panel about Utah-Morocco partnership

The four guest speakers had their own unique perspectives regarding the partnership, which was great for students like me, who are interested in international relations. The speakers and students discussed topics related to building strong, positive international relations, sustainable development, and national security. What I appreciated about the different speakers was not only that they all spoke about the State Partnership Program, but they also discussed different aspects of the partnership and different ways to contribute. The speakers have different careers working in military, government, and other fields.

The event was initiated and geared up by students- members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU. They worked on the event through a student engaged learning as a team with a college mentoring them when it was necessary. Responsibilities were divided among UIMF members based in their choice: we had the chance to introduce the speakers, participate in the discussions and speak with the speakers after the event ended. This was a great opportunity for students to meet new people and become more engaged with the university.

This journey was once a very treasured and interesting way to be extra concerned with my university in specific, due to the fact it targeted on strengthening the partnership between two communities who live in mountain areas and could learn from each other different training how to do that in a more sustainable way.



Hazim Alshabari, (far left) with guests and other students on the organizing team

As a political science student and international relations focusing on global politics, I felt that there was once a lot of information discussed in this event that was applicable to my predominant and future career goals. I am now in a position to research more about topics related to the partnership between Morocco and Utah, as well as I know the work that goes into organizing this type of event.

Hazim Alshanbari, member, Sustainable Mountain Development Club at UVU