

Advocating mountain targets through student academic research



Utah Valley University (UVU) hosted United Nations Day on October 24, 2017 with the purpose of engaging students and visitors in activities and priorities of the United Nations. This year particularly focus of the event at Utah Valley was on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations adopted in 2015 17 SDG goals and 169 specific targets as indicators for the members nations of the United Nations for their advancement towards human progress. Such targets include agriculture, water conservation, and energy efficiency along with numerous other projected goals.



(L to R): Dr. Baktybek Abdrysaev, Mentor, UIMF, Rebecca Bindraban, and Jesler Molina, President Emeritus, UIMF during the United Nations Day at UVU.

During the event representatives of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU and the clubs raised awareness of the students in the audience about the importance of mountain targets and different initiatives of the United Nations and the UIMF to promote and improve the lives of mountain peoples.

The UIMF clubs work together and separately to perpetuate mountain targets as well as to advocate the Sustainable Mountain Development agenda of the United Nations In the state of Utah and in North America.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs club and the chief editor of the Youth in the Mountains Journal, my personal function was speaking to guests who stopped by about the club and the journal. I had the opportunity to speak to students about the things the Foreign Affairs club does such as hosting foreign dignitaries at the university and working with the U.N. through engaged learning opportunities.

Additionally, I also had the opportunity to speak with students about the Youth in the Mountains journal which raises awareness about mountain issues and culture addressing everything from alternative energy, education, gender, climate issues and other issues pertaining to mountain people. The journal is open access one and its content is available through the web-sites of the UVU with links to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. This makes it an excellent opportunity for students to be recognized. I am working now on the content of the 2017 issue of the journal and submitted papers cover such issues as: ??????????????????????

Overall United Nations Day at UVU provided us a great experience and a terrific way to host an open forum to discuss the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the mountain targets among them as well.

Rebecca Bindraban, Editorial Board, Youth and the Mountains Journal