

UVU students report about participation at CSW 65

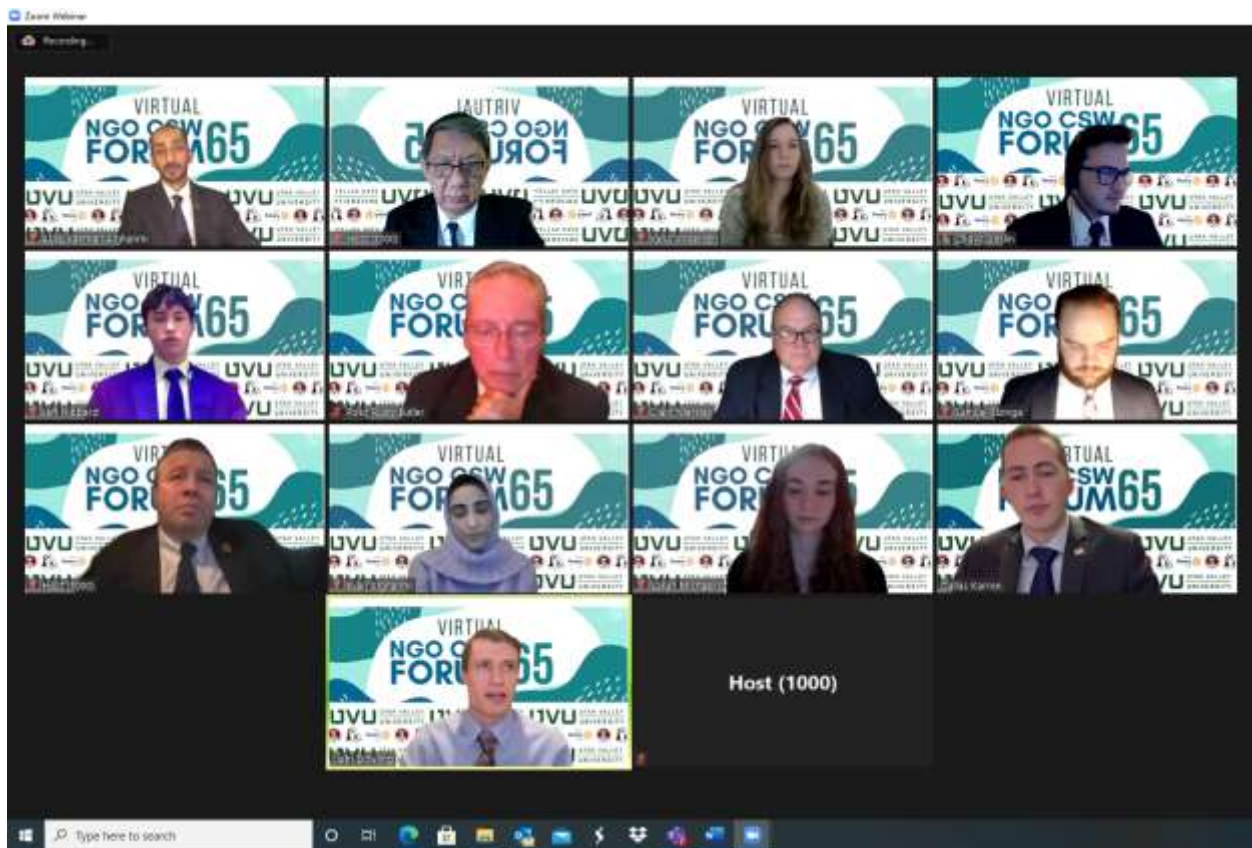


Dallas Karren, UIMF Vice-President speaking during the event

On April 14, 2021, the Utah Valley University (UVU) Office of Global Engagement hosted UVU students from the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) to discuss their recent experience in participating in a parallel even during the United Nation (UN) 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. UIMF is a coalition of student clubs at UVU that engages with the UN and looks to support the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, UIMF emphasizes sustainable mountain development. Participating in this event gave students the students a chance to participate in engaged learning, which was a common topic of discussion during this Office of Global Engagement event.

Student engaged learning is a component of UVU that gives students the opportunity to learn by doing. It encourages students to engage in professional development, potentially through extracurricular entities and activities, as is the case with UIMF. While it is vital to learn in the classroom, professional development allows students the chance to further learn, while preparing them for the professional world. It additionally can help students seeking to go to graduate school as it has the potential to help provide them with resume building activities.

Ways in which engaged learning was participated in by UVU students were discussed. This included an outline of activities by the UVU Rotaract club including work done with the Orem Rotary club, participation in CSW 65 including preparation efforts that were taken such as logistical work and fundraising, in addition to UVU students talking about engaged learning activities, there was also mention of the lessons that had been learned through engaged learning, particularly vis-à-vis participation in CSW 65. Learning about all that goes into preparation, the importance of collaboration, and a better understanding of mountain communities were all lessons that were mentioned. In addition to these lessons, the improvement of professional skills was also noted. This illustrates engaged learning in action, both in learning by doing and identifying what has been learned.



UVU delegation presentation during CSW65

In addition to the aforementioned focus on examples of engaged learning and lessons learned through engaged learning, much discussion was given to the concept of engaged learning. This allowed for discussion on both engaged learning itself. As previously mentioned, engaged learning encourages learning beyond the classroom, this was surely experienced and demonstrated by those students who acted as panelists for this event. Engaged learning seeks to give students

real world application through which to learn. This may allow students to apply what has been taught in the classroom.

UVU students on this panel were also able to share their thoughts on the importance of mountain communities. It was reminded that mountain communities are still part of their respective state and so they should not be ignored. Furthermore, the thought was shared that mountain communities can support sustainable development. Additionally, it was mentioned that it is important for mountain communities to develop relations with one another in order to facilitate learning from one another, particularly in regard to sustainable development. Sharing these thoughts shows how these UVU students were able to further engage in the discussion at hand.

Engaged learning provides great learning opportunities to students. This has clearly been the case with these UVU students that were able to be panelists at this event. Seeking to blend the academic with the practical shows how both can be complimentary and has the potential to lead to better learning, better understanding, and better outcomes. In this, UVU is a great example of engaged learning.

Mark Driggs, UIMF member