

March 5, 2011

Participants of the 2nd Annual International Women of the Mountains Conference:

Welcome to Utah Valley University! In behalf of the entire student body, I express our excitement and acknowledge the privilege it is for us to host such a distinguished group. Dozens of our outstanding students have worked diligently to make this conference possible. I encourage you to take the opportunity meet some of them as you participate in your meetings.

Having grown up in Park City, Utah – a mountain town nearby – I am substantially interested in the initiatives and goals of this conference. However, at the time of the conference I will be participating in a unique visit to Moscow, Russia with a delegation of U.S. university student body presidents to meet with top Kremlin advisors and Russian leaders. My goals in Russia will be relatively similar to what you will be focusing on: to find areas for collaboration and mutual understanding.

It is an important time in the world for overlapping consensus to be found on important issues. Your participation in this conference brings added hope for a more peaceful future to our generation of students.

Best wishes for a productive and meaningful Conference.

Richard T. Portwood

Student Body President