



History & Political Science

September 12, 2013

Karinjo DeVore
Co-Executive Director
VERTEX

Andrew Taber
Executive Director
The Mountain Institute

Dear colleagues,

Greetings to you both from the faculty and students of the History and Political Science Department and College of Humanities and Social sciences at UVU. I would appreciate it if both of you as leaders of the North American team could convey our best wishes to the secretariat of the Mountain Partnership and participants of this important Meeting.

You already have a letter with endorsement from Dr. Rusty Butler, focal point for the Mountain Partnership at UVU to *VERTEX* as a regional hub for the MP in North America.

If possible, I would like to address a couple of additional issues and initiatives which have been the focus of attention and activities of our team and which I hope both of you would support when the UVU delegation talks about them.

We, at UVU will be glad to continue to contribute to the agenda of the Mountain Partnership by co-hosting a series of international conferences Women of the Mountains on an annual basis with alternating sites between Utah and other mountain nations around the world as it was envisioned in the Orem Declaration of Mountain Women, the final document of the first conference in 2007.

Currently we are trying to secure funds to co-host them in Utah in a sustained way. When this happens those funds could serve as seed money in order to secure matching funds to co-host conferences overseas from all interested institutions in North America and globally. We propose to use those conferences as a platform to provide the North American hub for MP to gather together any institutions interested in gender promotion as a part of SMD-activities both regionally and globally.

We are also proud that under the leadership of Dr. Baldomero Lago, Jordan Giles and Mark Peterson, two UVU students with Political Science Majors, leaders of Utah International Mountain Forum, UVU student's coalition, will contribute to the success of the Meeting. They will present to the audience another example of a growing role of students as future leaders in SMD-advocacy, which is a printed especially for the 4th Global Meeting of MP in Turkey a volume of students papers on that topic. I am sure that our delegation and both students in particular will be glad to support you in adopting goals and priorities important for North American mountain communities in the final document of the Meeting and will rely on your advice in getting connected with their counterparts from other parts of the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Connelly".

David Connelly, Ph.D.,
Chair