

UN Engaged Learning presentation

Good Morning,

My name is Rob Smith and I am the current Student Body President at Utah Valley University. UVU was originally established in 1941 as a Vocational School and has had an interesting journey to a community college, then to a State College, and was established as a University in 2008. UVU has been able to stay true to its roots as a vocational school with its unique dual mission. We continue to offer over 100 certificates and associate degrees much like a community college but also offer more than 80 bachelors programs and 8 masters programs. Unlike most higher education institutions across the country, UVU has continued to see unprecedented growth with over 37,000 students. By the year 2025 we are projected by state officials to reach over 50,000 students. There is an interesting fact about this growth. Although we do see a lot of growth in our incoming Freshman, the majority of it comes from our Jr and Sr classes. What was once a high commuter school for most students, transferring after receiving an associates degree, has turned into a place that many see as a top choice to earn their degrees. I too, at one point, felt the same way 4 years ago when I started my college career that I would get my associates degree and then move on to a different school, but when I saw the immense opportunities at Utah Valley University and learned more about their mission, UVU became the place I wanted to be. At the top of UVU's mission is Student Success. It is evident across the whole campus the every administrator, faculty, and staff member care about student and their success while at UVU. Evident enough, that this past fall when being accredited, our number one commendation was that UVU has a commitment to its core theme of student success. We also have three other core themes to support our number one mission of Student Success. First, we strive to be an Inclusive university where all people can come and receive an education regardless of where they come from or what their background is. Second, we strive to be a Serious university where students will be able to go through rigorous academic programs. And finally, we strive for Engaged Learning in all of our programs. The Engaged Learning model has three main goals. First, UVU faculty and staff engage students using real-world contexts within the curriculum and activities outside of the classroom to increase professional competence and confidence. Second, UVU fosters partnerships and outreach opportunities that enhance the regional, national, and global communities. And third, UVU serves as a portal of civic engagement and an engine of regional economic and business development. Our Engaged

Learning Model is what kept me at UVU. Prior to becoming the Student Body President I had the opportunity to be the lead intern in the President Internship program. This is a unique experience where the President of the University as well as each of his cabinet members hire an intern each year to mentor. We are given opportunities to attend meetings, work on projects, and give presentations. These engaged learning opportunities not only help us in the classroom, but give us real world experience. My time now as the Student Body President has been one of the most engaged learning experiences of my life. I have the opportunity to sit on over 25 boards and committees including the Board of Trustees and President's Council. I also get to oversee the allocation of our Student Fees of 18.2 million dollars. And finally, because of professors who are committed to engaged learning, we get to be here at the United Nations with you. UVU's Engaged Learning Model has been extremely influential in my life and in the lives of thousands of other UVU students.