Dear Friends:

In March, Idaho celebrates the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Idaho Territory.
Boise, on its side, continues its own celebrations, honoring the history of Music during March.

In this context, the Consulate has the great honor in partnering with the Boise Music Chamber Society to bring to Boise the Grammy award winners, Cuarteto Latinoamericano.

In April we will host the Financial Education Week and the 5th Conference on Saying No to Domestic Violence.

CONCERT OF THE CUARTETO LATINOAMERICANO

For the Consulate, it was a great honor to collaborate with the Boise Music Chamber Society, in bringing the Cuarteto Latinoamericano to celebrate Mexican music.
The Cuarteto Latinoamericano was founded in 1982 by three brothers: Saúl & Arón (violin) and Álvaro Bitrán (cello), together with Javier Montiel (viola).
It is considered to be one of the top in the world. They won a Grammy in 2012 for their CD “Brasileiro, works of Francisco Mignone”.

http://www.boisechambermusicseries.org/

FIRST 100 DAYS OF GOVERNMENT

On March 1st, 2013, President Enrique Peña Nieto commemorated his first 100 days in office.
During this period, the Federal Government has obtained several achievements, such as:
- Publication of the General Law of Victims
- The launch of the National Campaign against Hunger
- The decree for the enactment of the Constitutional Reform in regards to education was signed.
- Presentation of an initiative to reform the Telecommunications system in Mexico

DR. HERMINIO BLANCO – WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

During the past World Economic Forum at Davos, Mexico presented the candidacy of Dr. Herminio Blanco Mendoza to head the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Currently, there are 9 highly qualified candidates for the position: Alan John Kwadwo Kyermaten (Ghana); Anabel González (Costa Rica); Mari Elka Pangestu (Indonesia); Tim Groser (Nueva Zealand); Amina C. Mohamed (Kenya); Ahmad Thougan Hindawi (Jordan); Taeho Bark (Korea), Roberto Carvalho de Azevedo (Brazil) and Dr. Herminio Blanco.

As Mexico’s Minister of Trade and Industry, NAFTA Chief Negotiator and Vice Minister of International Negotiations, Dr. Blanco has played a key role in the design and implementation of the deep structural changes in the country’s trade regime that have made of Mexico a more open and competitive economy.
The Centro Internacional para el Mejoramiento del Maíz y el Trigo (CIMMYT) was established in Mexico in 1963, by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Government of Mexico. Dr. Norman Borlaug was appointed as Director for the Wheat Program.

In 1966, and after some bad years, India imported 18,000 tons of wheat seeds from Mexico. That is what started the Green Revolution, which has allowed to save from extreme hunger millions of people, particularly in Asia.

With a donation of 25 million dollars by businessman Carlos Slim, in February 2013 CIMMYT’s Bioscience Complex was inaugurated. It will make possible to improve seeds faster, as it will allow characterizing more precisely information such as its tolerance to heat and drought, its resistance to plagues and diseases, its healthiness and its industrial and nutritional quality.

On his side, Bill Gates has donated more than 90 million dollars to support CIMMYT’s projects.

In 1970–1971, Hernán Cortés, the Spanish Conquistador, received the title of “Marquis of the Valley of Oaxaca”.

Oaxaca has been the birthplace of very relevant men for Mexico: Benito Juárez, Porfirio Díaz, Enrique y Ricardo Flores Magón, José Vasconcelos and Rufino Tamayo.

Everybody loves Honest Abe, the 16th President of the United States.

And everybody has a good reason for doing so: He fought for the Union and prevailed.

He abolished slavery in the United States. Every school kid in this country can recite the Gettysburg Address by Heart.

But for Idaho and Mexico, Abraham Lincoln will always have a special place:

On March 4th 1863 he signed the Act approving the establishment of the Territory of Idaho. And he appointed the first Governor of the new Territory: William Wallace.

That is why he has been a permanent resident of Boise since 1915. In Mexico City, he has been living since 1966, when President Johnson inaugurated his statue and the park bearing his name.

Abe was fond of Mexico for abolishing slavery in 1829, and beholding the French advancement in 1862–1863, thus impeding them to support the Confederates during the Civil War. And he had the highest considerations for President Benito Juárez.

Montserrat Connington (San Luis Potosí 1970 – )

Hewlett Packard – Printing and Computing Content Management Strategist

Originally from San Luis Potosí, Montserrat Castellanos studied Business at the Universidad del Valle de Atemajac in Guadalajara, Jalisco.

She started working at Hewlett Packard at the Guadalajara campus. In 1997 she accepted the offer of the Company to be posted in Idaho. From the first moment, she decided that here would become her home. She got married with a Londoner, with whom she has two kids.

Monsé combines her job, where she is a prominent member of the “Mexican Family of HP”, with her labor in favor of community organizations like Rotary International.

A recipient of: Nobel Peace Prize, Presidential Medal for Liberty and Gold Medal from Congress, Norman Burloug, the father of the Green Revolution, worked during the summer of 1937 for the Forest Service at the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.
**Consulate of Mexico in Boise**

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**ASUNTOS CONSULARES**

**SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE**

On February 7th the Consulate signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Women’s and Children’s Alliance (WCA) which will strengthen the collaboration between both institutions in providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and in the organization of activities and information campaigns addressed to the population of Mexican origin.

Since 2010, this Consulate has collaborated with the Alliance in planning and developing campaigns against domestic violence. And they have organized jointly a series of Conferences on saying “No to Domestic Violence”.

The 5th edition of the abovementioned conference will take place at the Consulate at the end of April.

**We invite all of you to assist to the 5th Conference!**

**INAUGURATION OF THE EDUCATION WINDOW**

On March 15, 2013, Consul Ricardo Pineda officially inaugurated the Education Window at the Consulate of Mexico in Boise.

The Education Window will provide a space for the Mexican community and the public in general where they can obtain information about the different education opportunities available in the State of Idaho and in Mexico. This effort seeks to address those interested in programs covering pre-k, K-12, community colleges and university education, as well as scholarship opportunities, plazas comunitarias, among other subjects.

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**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: FINANCIAL EDUCATION WEEK**

The Financial Education Week will take place from April 22nd to the 26th in all the Consulates of Mexico in the United States and in Canada, in the framework of Financial Education Program for Mexican Migrants of the Institutes for the Mexicans Abroad (Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior, IME).

The objective is to provide information to the Mexican community about ways of handling their Money in a safe manner, their options to make it more productive, how to protect their wealth, and advise them on where to go for the proper guidance for taking informed decisions about their financial welfare.

Among the themes to be covered during the week are: Payrolls; Saving Accounts; Checking; Orientation about credits, Savings; Mortages, debts, foreclosures; Loans; Advise on banking services; Business training; Remittances programs and productive projects, and Insurances.

We will be organizing presentations in Ontario, Boise and Hailey, in collaboration with bank and financial entities; tax experts and educational institutions, such as Boise State University and the College of Southern Idaho, Campus Hailey.

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**Upcoming Events**

**Jornada Sabatina:** The next Jornada will take place on April 6th at the Consulate.

**Mobile Consulate:**

The next Mobile Consulate will take place on March 23rd at Blackfoot and April 27th at Gallatin, MT.

**Health Screening:** St. Luke’s Hospital and Lion’s Foundation will be conducting free health screenings (vision, blood pressure and glucose) at the Consulate, on March 4th and April 8th.
At the ceremony commemorating the first 100 days of Government, held in the Courtyard of Honor of the National Palace, President Enrique Peña Nieto recalled the five major national goals of his administration, and stated that, at the end of this symbolic period of time, the government’s actions, “Have been fully consistent with what I offered in my political-electoral campaign and endorsed when I was sworn in as president of Mexico.” Among the achievements obtained, we highlight the Education Reform and the presentation of the initiative to reform the Telecommunications sector in Mexico.

Education Reform in Mexico

The main purpose of the Educational Reform is to make education a force for transforming Mexico. It therefore has three main lines of action:

- **Ensure that our students are educated by the best teachers.** To this end, the Professional Teaching Service will be created. The Reform contains clear rules to ensure that professional merit is the only way to be admitted, remain and be promoted as a teacher, principal or supervisor.

- **Make evaluation an efficient mechanism for improving teaching standards.** The National Institute for Educational Evaluation has therefore been given constitutional status, which grants it full autonomy. It also orders the creation of a National System of Educational Assessment, which will take into account the conditions and challenges teachers face in their everyday lives.

- **Improve conditions for students’ integral training.** The reform strengthens the autonomy of school management, and plans to substantially increase the number of Full-Time Schools, to provide more educational and cultural opportunities and encourage students’ overall balanced development.

Telecommunications Reform Initiative

The Constitutional Telecommunications Reform Initiative has three main areas:

- **The expansion of the rights of Mexicans.**

  It guarantees freedom of expression and media; clarifies the right of free access to information and provides the right of access to the Information Technology and Communication, including Broadband service.

  - A new institutional architecture for economic competition and legal certainty.

In keeping with the democratic development of the country, the president will no longer grant or revoke broadcasting and telecommunications concessions. Decisions regarding each concession will be technical rather than political.

- **Specific measures are envisaged to accelerate competition in the telecommunications and broadcasting sector.**