Graduation in Toppenish tonight for first class of farm entrepreneurs

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WHO: Seven would-be farmers/ranchers of Hispanic/Native American heritage

WHAT: Graduation ceremony of the first business-education class of **ADENTRO**, a new program from the Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing.

WHEN: Tonight – March 19, 2014
6 – 8 p.m. (dinner followed by graduation ceremony)

WHERE: Smith Hall
Heritage University, Toppenish campus
3240 Fort Road, Toppenish, WA 98948

WHY: To bring would-be business owners who lack access to capital and conventional financing *adentro* ("inside") and equip them with the tools to become successful entrepreneurs.

HOW: ADENTRO offers small loans to qualified individuals who lack access to conventional financing. Many are farmworkers with great expertise in agriculture, but who need education in building a business plan, gaining a bank loan, etc. They must complete 10 weeks of business education classes.

WHO: **The Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing** – program oversight
Washington State Housing Finance Commission – primary funder
Heritage University – delivers the business training program

Other partners:
- National Association of Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB)
- Yakima County Asset Building Coalition
- Opportunity Finance Network (OFN)

MORE: **orfh.org/adentro-overview.html**

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The Washington State Housing Finance Commission is a publicly accountable, self-supporting team that brings private investment dollars to benefit families and achieve public goals throughout Washington. Over 30 years, the Commission has created and preserved more than 275,000 affordable homes across the state, while contributing more than $42.5 billion and 240,000 jobs to the economy.

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