



**TO:** University of Idaho Students, Faculty and Staff  
**FROM:** Chuck Staben, President  
**DATE:** March 28, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** National Farmworker Awareness Week at the University of Idaho

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Recently the Associated Students of the University of Idaho unanimously passed Senate Resolution No. S19-R03, "In Support of Recognizing National Farmworker Awareness Week at the University of Idaho." The resolution offers that the last week of March be established as National Farmworker Awareness Week. The University of Idaho, a land-grant institution with roots in agriculture across our statewide educational, research and outreach mission, supports the aspirations of those from farmworker backgrounds and recognizes the issues of farmworkers.

I support the resolution and urge all members of our U of I community to engage with the topics presented. Of special note, I concur that "American agriculture is a cornerstone of this nation's identity and still holds true to the best traditions of its foundation which includes the original purpose of the establishment of land-grant universities and research institutions like the University of Idaho." In affirming this and other statements in the resolution, we recognize the importance of farmworkers to our history, traditions and purpose; for the vitality of our state and our university today; and as valued contributors to our shared future.

The U of I College Assistance Migrant Program has been a leader in National Farmworker Awareness Week, recognizing the week as a unit, coordinating programs and volunteering to serve farmworkers in local and national efforts. Other university units have taken an active and engaged role to sponsor activities across our institution during this week. Several activities and programs remain; I encourage our U of I community members to get involved. Learn more at:

<https://www.uidaho.edu/diversity/edu/college-assistance-migrant-program/farmworker-awareness>.

I congratulate and appreciate the roles of student Jennifer Bautista Ramirez and sponsor Senator Emilia Carrillo, and the entire Associated Students of the University of Idaho in bringing this resolution forward. It offers a welcome contribution to how we honor, respect and support farmworkers at our university.