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State Capitol to Kick Off National Hispanic Heritage Month with a Special Saturday Event

Salem, Ore. -- National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 to October 15, 2016, will be celebrated with a kick-off event at the Oregon State Capitol on Saturday, September 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is free and the public is invited to attend, rain or shine. The four-hour event, which includes family friendly activities like musical entertainment, games, crafts, exhibits, speakers and dancing, is sponsored by the Oregon State Capitol Foundation as part of the Capitol History Gateway project.

This year's event will feature an opening performance by the Woodburn High School Mariachi Band, a musical performance by Edna Vazquez, dancing by Portland-based Ballet Papalotl and Ballet Folklorico Tlanese, poetry reading, a speaker series, presentation of Spanish guitar masters and an hour-long presentation of various Latin American countries music by the band Inka Jam.

Tower tours will be given to the observation platform on the top of the Capitol at noon and 1 p.m., weather permitting, and is open to the first 50 people per tour time.

To embrace and welcome Spanish speakers the day of the event, interpreters will be stationed around the Capitol and in the Information Kiosk to answer questions and highlight important information.

This celebration is one in a series of special events which invites Oregonians into "the people's building" on a Saturday, while offering a free and fun family experience. More information can be found at www.oregoncapitol.com or by calling Visitor Services at 503-986-1388.