

Growing Roots! Tec students take folk music and dance to Washington



The **redova**, **huapangos**, and **chotises** were performed in the United States capital to the rhythm of the **Raíces** folk company. Raíces is Spanish for “roots.”

Consisting of students from the Monterrey campus, the group performed from February 8 to 12 at a **meeting of the International Affairs Commission of the National Governors Association**, bringing the state’s cultural richness to **Washington during its Nuevo León Week**.

The students’ participation came about thanks to an invitation from the **Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and the **Nuevo León state government**, which are working on collaborative cultural and tourism promotion activities.

Officials such as Samuel García, **Nuevo León state governor**, and the Ambassador of Mexico to the United States, **Esteban Moctezuma Barragán**, were present at the event held at the **Mexican Cultural Institute**.

Melissa Segura, the state’s Minister of Culture, and **Maricarmen Martínez**, the state’s Minister of Tourism, were also present.

“It’s been wonderful to have this experience; I’m proud to come here to represent both my country and my state.” - Alexa Leos

A multidisciplinary team

The company currently has a team that is trained in all areas: dance, singing, and acting. **3 dance couples, 4 musicians, 2 singers, and 2 professors from Raíces** traveled to the U.S. capital for this event.

The participating artists, by category, are:

- ***Carolina Alejandra Ávila Cardona (dancer)***
- ***Mariajosé Montes Herrera (dancer)***
- ***Lealye Vanessa Franco Aguilera (dancer)***
- ***Dante Hernán Gutiérrez Mota (dancer)***
- ***Luis Alfredo Pérez Mora (dancer)***
- ***Diego Alejandro Peña Rendón (dancer)***
- ***Bruno Alberto Navéjar Pérez (musician)***
- ***Angel Yahír Pérez Vega (musician)***
- ***Javier Maximiliano Lara Leyva (musician)***
- ***Jesús Carlos Hernández Igualate (musician)***
- ***Edgar Alfonso Mata Ortiz (singer)***
- ***Mirena Alexa Leos Flores (singer)***
- ***Antonio Tanguma (professor)***
- ***Eloísa Hernández Gutiérrez (professor y director)***



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Some of the pieces that Raíces performed were “El pavidito Navido,” “La Evangelina,” “De Ramones a Terán,” and “El Huapango a Antonio Tanguma,” to name just a few.

Doing Monterrey proud

Although they had limited preparation time, the performing students ensured that their participation in the US was a success, said **Eloisa Hernández, director of the Raíces folk company**:

“Once the tour was confirmed, the students’ motivation increased: their attitude, enthusiasm, and concentration were key to our success,” said Hernández.



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Culture for all

In addition to the display of folk culture, there was also a presentation of typical Monterrey food and cocktails.

“It’s enriching. By conveying the culture of your place of origin you can also absorb that of the place you visit.” - Luis Mora

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