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**PEACE THROUGH
BUSINESS**

The Institute for Economic
Empowerment of Women

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The Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women February Newsletter

The PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS school bell has rung, and our Afghan and Rwandan students are hitting the books and studying hard in their business classes.

Classes began two weeks ago in both Kabul and Kigali, and even from thousands of miles away, I was able to welcome our students in both [Afghanistan](#) and [Rwanda](#) with a video message.

We are so proud of these women who have applied and been accepted into our program to learn about how to become not only better businesswomen but also better leaders in their countries.

All of our 2010 In-Country students' profiles are now [online](#). Read their courageous stories and see the photographs of their businesses – take a moment to look into the window of their worlds. I assure you, they are both inspiring and motivating.

In both countries, the first class lecture focused on entrepreneurship and market economies, and the students found themselves engaged in a lively discussion about monopolies and competition.

Our former students are setting a great example in their Pay It Forward, as they are volunteering to help teach and assist with the classes.

Annette Karenzi and Nadia Keza, both 2009 PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS graduates, helped our Rwandan Facilitator Holly Hixson teach the opening session.

In Afghanistan, 2009 graduate Farzana Ibrahimi has volunteered to assist our Afghan Facilitator Manizha Wafeq. Farzana has also created a new [brochure](#) to



Mahboba Ibrahimi owns a documentary film company in Afghanistan. She hopes that her films can help educate people about life in her country.



Annette shares her business training with the first 2010 Rwanda class.

promote her business, Kandahar Health and Development Organization.

The Afghan class was greeted by Ms. Anjuma, Director of Women Economic Empowerment Department of the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

"I am aware that it has been three to four years the Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women helps our Afghan business women to grow and learn ways of getting their business succeed, and we are grateful for their efforts," Ms. Anjuma said.

We are so thrilled that female leaders like Ms. Anjuma are showing their support for our program and for Afghan businesswomen.

While our students are in the classroom in their countries, we at the Institute have been busy as well. We've started several new initiatives, including the recently formed Oklahoma City Leadership Committee. Without the help and leadership of Mary Melon and Nancy Hyde, this committee would not have been possible!

We've had two meetings so far, which have been extremely productive and exciting. Presently, we have branched off into the following areas of focus: Microfinance, PR, Marketing, Events, and Mentors. Oklahoma City businesswomen are really showing their support by participating on this committee.

Members include: Terri Weber, Darcie Harris, Dr. Ann Archer and Saundra Naifeh. If you would like to join the committee, please let us know!

We announced in our last newsletter the contest for our former students to win a trip back to the United States with the 2010 PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS class.

The qualified Afghan students include:

Farghana Alimy, 2009, Qandi Amaki, 2007, Farishtah Bakhteri, 2007, Farzana Ibrahim, 2009, Frozan Raufi, 2009, Shahrbanoo Rezai, 2009, Amir Taj Sirat, 2007, Muzhgan Wafiq, 2008, and Kubra Zaifi, 2007.

The qualified Rwandan students are:

Chantal Bucyana, 2008, Bertha Kabuto, 2008, Nadia Keza, 2009, Sarah Mukandutiye, 2009, Jane Natukunda, 2009, and Marlene Nyirubutama, 2009.

This month, Institute board member Janet Harris Lange graciously attended this year's Northwood University Outstanding Business Leader awards ceremony and reception held at Richard and Helen DeVos' home in Manalapan, Florida.

The DeVos' and their daughter-in-law, Betsy DeVos, are both Institute sponsors, and Betsy sits as PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS chair. We are so grateful for their support and a big thank you to Janet for her dedication!



Bertha Kabuto, a 2008 graduate, is in the contest.



Young Afghan girls received school supplies last year from a Morning Star distribution.

The Institute has also coordinated a sizable donation to Andeisha Farid's orphanage, Afghan Child Education and Care Organization (AFCECO). Thanks to the help of Morning Star Development, a Colorado-based non-profit organization, children at AFCECO will soon receive clothing, medicine, toys and books.

The donation is part of 100,000 pound distribution facilitated by Morning Star.

Andeisha, an '09 PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS graduate, first met Morning Star founder and President Daniel Batchelder during at our International Women's Economic Summit in August. Read about all the details in our [press release](#). This only further demonstrates the powerful relationships that come out of our program!

A celebration near to our hearts is right around the corner – International Women's Day on March 8. I'll be in Washington, DC, attending several events, including a special U.S-Afghan Women's Council meeting and an awards ceremony hosted by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

How will YOU celebrate women around the world?

Warmest regards,

Terry Neese



As always, a special thank you goes out to our wonderful sponsors and partners!