



# Embassy of the United States of America

## Public Affairs Section

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### Ambassador Greenlee receives warm welcome in Achacachi U.S. Government donates computers and renovates schools

Today, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia David Greenlee was showered with gratitude by citizens and local government officials in the town of Achacachi as he inaugurated the construction, remodeling, and furnishing of computer labs at the nine largest high schools in the town. This donation was part of a \$70,000 grant provided by the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) of the U.S. government Agency for International Development (USAID), with the support of Achacachi authorities and residents.

Achacachi mayor Eugenio Rojas thanked the Ambassador for this project as well as for a prior initiative that provided Achacachi residents with Bolivian national identity cards at no cost. Rojas also proclaimed his desire to open his town to the world: "We don't want to remain locked away. We want to be known by the world. I'd like the people of the United States to know us. We are humble people. We are people that welcome the Ambassador. This is the first time an Ambassador from the U.S. has visited us. I request we form a brotherhood between the people of the U.S. and those of Achacachi. Brotherhood means cooperation between countries. Although we have little, the municipal government can cooperate with you and, if you have more, you could also cooperate more."

Ambassador Greenlee said he was moved by the reception in Achacachi and noted that by means of the Internet, Achacachi residents "will be connected to the entire world." He added: "One has to take advantage of the technological possibilities of globalization."

The project inaugurated today is part of a school renovation program implemented by OTI which benefits nine primary and secondary schools in the Omasuyos Province, Department of La Paz. More than 6,500 students attend these schools. This is a joint effort by the U.S. Government, the local Achacachi government, and the community residents. The municipality of Omasuyos provided construction material and the parent and teacher associations provided labor. The Parents Committee and personnel at the schools committed the funds to pay for monthly Internet service, which will be available on the computers donated by the U.S. Government.

In the past 18 months USAID has donated \$US1.5 million for the rehabilitation of schools in several provinces of the altiplano and has supported more than 800 similar projects in 328 municipalities throughout Bolivia.



*USAID is the Agency for International Cooperation of the U.S. government. Its cooperation programs in Bolivia are oriented to improve the effectiveness, responsiveness, and transparency of Bolivian democracy; provide greater economic opportunities to poor populations by means of the development of their businesses and trade; develop better healthcare practices and services; support a greater sustainable use of natural resources; and promote social and economic development in order to reduce illegal coca cultivation.*

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