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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heritage University President Honored Through Creation of the John Bassett Society

Toppenish, Wash. – Heritage University President Dr. John Bassett will have a Worcester, Massachusetts society named after him, in honor of his efforts to improve education in that community. The Worcester Education Collaborative is establishing "The John Bassett Society," which honors individuals who have made a generous financial contribution to EC.

Before arriving at Heritage in 2010, Dr. Bassett was the President of Clark University. While at Clark, Bassett had a vision of an organization that united business, higher education, parents and community groups which strived to provide educational excellence for children, and which would work toward that by coordinating and driving action. Five years later, the Worcester Education Collaborative was created.

That vision came true five years later with the formation of the Worcester Education Collaborative. The WEC has become a trusted advocate and sometimes a critic when necessary in order to demand educational excellence for students in Worcester.

Now, the WEC wants to honor its most generous supporters by creating "The John Bassett Society," a select group of individuals who have supported the WEC with gifts of \$500 or more. Jennifer Davis Carey, founding executive director of the WEC says "John is regarded as a visionary leader in education, and his work to create this organization—bringing together the higher education, business, civic, and grassroots community sectors of the city of Worcester to advance education for our children—bears witness to that."

Dr. Bassett was touched to hear the news, but quick to include others when talking about the formation and success of the WEC. "While overwhelmed by this honor, I must say that the Worcester Education Collaborative was the brainchild of at least a half dozen energetic Worcesterites, each of whom

should be singled out for this recognition,” says Dr. Bassett. “On some days I may have been the most obnoxious instigator and nudge to round up the troops, but believe me this was a complete team effort. We also owe much to the generous supporters who believe that a strong parent/employer/civic coalition is crucial to successful public education. And without the leadership of Jen Carey the past five or six years we would not be in any position to celebrate WEC in 2015.”

The WEC will hold a luncheon for Dr. Bassett on October 14, 2015 in Worcester. In addition to naming the Society after him, the WEC will also present him with their “Apple of a Different Color” award. This award is presented occasionally to those who have consistently offered visionary and innovative ideas in education, and brought to bear the leadership to bring those ideas to fruition.

For more information, contact Jennifer Davis Carey at (508) 757-5631 or jdaviscarey@wecollaborative.org.

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