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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heritage University to Host Gathering of Ichishkíin (Sahaptin) Teachers

Toppenish, Wash. – Heritage University will host the fourth annual Páwyak'ukt Ichishkíin Sapsikw'ałáma (Gathering of Ichishkíin Teachers) on Tuesday, **August 16, 2016**.

The goal of the event is to bring together those who currently teach Ichishkíin (also known as Sahaptin) to discuss teaching strategies and learn about language revitalization efforts across the Northwest. Ichishkíin, the ancestral language of the Native peoples of the Columbia River Basin, is considered an endangered language, at risk of falling out of use as its speakers pass away or shift to speaking another language. In 2014, Heritage University started the Heritage University Language Center (HULC) to preserve Ichishkíin and other languages, and is currently working to revitalize and promote Ichishkíin. Event organizers say there is a great deal of interest across the region in teaching and learning the language.

Several presentations will be given by teachers from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in Oregon, the Yakama Nation, the University of Oregon and Heritage University. The gathering takes places from **11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, and will be held in Smith Family Hall, which is located in the Arts & Sciences Center at Heritage University's main campus in Toppenish, Wash. The event is sponsored by the Heritage University Center for Native Health & Culture and the University of Oregon's Northwest Indian Language Institute.

For more information contact Greg Sutterlict, HULC Director, (509) 480-5807 or sutterlict_g@heritage.edu.

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