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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Heritage University Announces First Three Recipients of Full Tuition Soar Scholarships**

Toppenish, Wash. – Heritage University announced the first three of six eventual winners of the HU Soar Scholarship. The winners are some of the brightest students in the Yakima Valley, and will receive a full-tuition scholarship for the achievement of an undergraduate degree at Heritage University.

The three scholarships were awarded to incoming students who will be starting at Heritage in the fall of 2017. They were selected based on the strength of their high school grades, a personal mission statement and a letter of recommendation. The recipients, their high school and their intended majors are:

Adrian Araiza, A.C. Davis High School, undecided; Rocio Regis, Toppenish High School, psychology; and Hema Balderas, Wapato High School, nursing.

"Having a well-educated workforce is vital to any community's success, and we at Heritage University are committed to developing the talent we have in the Valley," said Celestino Limas, VP of Student Affairs & Enrollment at Heritage. "The Soar Scholarship provides the opportunity for the Valley's best and brightest to not only achieve a rigorous academic experience but also explore the other co-curricular programs that complement their learning experience at Heritage."

Heritage University has three more Soar Scholarships to award. The deadline for the second round is **February 1, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.** The scholarships are open to all first time Heritage University students whether high school graduates or college transfer students. Applicants should visit [HUSoar.com](http://HUSoar.com) and complete the online Soar scholarship application and upload a personal essay and letter of recommendation.

Since the Soar merit scholarship program began in 2013, 27 students, including the three mentioned earlier, have been awarded the scholarship.

Questions about the information contained in this press release should be directed to David Wise, Vice President for University Advancement, Marketing and Communications, 509-865-0717 or [wise\\_d@heritage.edu](mailto:wise_d@heritage.edu).

Reporters and editors, please contact David Mance for assistance in arranging interviews with Dr. Limas and any of the scholarship winners at (509) 969-6084 or

mance\_d@heritage.edu. We also have video of each student being presented a large check representing the scholarship available for your use.

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