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Heritage University Hosts 2017 Inaugural Enhance Conference

Toppenish, Wash. – Teachers and educators from all disciplines are invited to attend the 2017 Inaugural Enhance Conference at Heritage University on April 29, 2017. The Enhance Conference gives participants a venue to voice their opinions on teaching, learning, reflecting on everyday classroom practices, and provide practical contributions to education.

The theme of the Enhance Conference is *change*. Change for improvement is already evident in all areas of the teaching profession on a day-to-day basis, as brought on by the 2011 adoption of the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards in Washington state, and the passage of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. However, the official policies and requirements developed from these initiatives push educators and the institutions that prepare them, to make further adjustments.

"At Heritage University, we believe that teachers and educators deserve a venue to voice their opinions created the Enhance Educators Conference to ensure that those voices are heard," said organizer Yusuf Incetas, Ph.D. "There is a clear need for constructive discussion to empower today's educators in the classroom."

Erin Jones, a widely celebrated teacher with 25 years of experience in education, will serve as the keynote speaker for the Enhance Conference. Jones has taught in a variety of environments, from predominantly African-American or Caucasian, to some of the most diverse communities in the nation. Among her career highlights: an award in 2007 as Most Innovative Foreign Language Teacher while teaching French Immersion at Stewart Middle School in Tacoma; being named Washington State Milken Educator of the Year while teaching at Rogers High School in Spokane; and recognition by the White House in March of 2013 as a "Champion of Change." Jones was the first African-American woman to run for the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and lost by a mere 1%. Erin has three adult children and a husband, James, who is a high school teacher in Lacey.

Registration for the 2017 Inaugural Enhance Conference is \$35, which covers costs. Fees are waived for pre-services teachers with student ID. Participants are asked to

submit an abstract no later than March 17, 2017. For more information, visit <http://www.heritage.edu/enhanceconference>, or contact Yusuf Incetas by phone at (509) 865-8525, or by email at incetas_y@heritage.edu.

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