



3240 Fort Road • Toppenish, WA 98948
(509) 865-8500

Date: February 21, 2017

Contact: David Mance, Media Relations Coordinator, 509-969-6084 or
mance_d@heritage.edu.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Science Olympiad Event Returns to YVC to Test Young Minds' Collaborative, Competitive Skills

Yakima, WA – Middle school students from throughout central Washington will again show off their scientific skills during the fifth annual South Central Washington Science Olympiad (SCWSO) on **Saturday, February 25, 2017** at Yakima Valley College (YVC).

This isn't the typical science fair where kids create and show their own separate projects; instead Science Olympiad brings together teams of students for group competition. Each of 17 teams from 12 middle schools has 15 competing members and alternates and will form small groups for each of the 23 competition events. These events include building and testing hovercraft and rockets, and conducting experiments in chemistry, anatomy and ecology. The top five teams will move onto the state competition in April; with the winner of that competition moving on to the national event in May.

"This is an event that teaches kids to collaborate and compete in science projects at the same time," says Cresanna Zintzun, tournament director, chemical hygiene officer and adjunct faculty at Heritage University. "It also fosters the study of and engagement in science throughout the year."

The Science Olympiad is a national program that started 30 years ago and has been held in Washington state for more than two decades. Before 2013, teams from central Washington had to travel to Spokane or western Washington to compete. The event is being presented jointly by the three Yakima Valley colleges and universities: Heritage University, YVC, and Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences (PNWU).

The event is being held on the YVC Yakima Campus in Glenn Anthon Hall, Building 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Seventeen teams of students from the following twelve schools are registered:

From Yakima area: East Valley Central Middle School; Franklin Middle School; Lewis & Clark Middle School; Riverside Christian Middle School; West Valley Junior High School; Wilson Middle School (two teams).

From other areas: Sager Middle School (College Place); Evergreen Middle School (Everett, three teams); Highlands Middle School (Kennewick); St. Joseph's School

(Kennewick); Redmond Middle School (Redmond, three teams); Soap Lake Middle School (Soap Lake).

You can learn more about Science Olympiad online at www.washingtonscienceolympiad.com.

For more information, contact Cresanna Zintzun at (509) 865-8558 or Zintzun_C@heritage.edu.

For more information, contact Stefanie Menard, YVC Communications Consultant at (509) 574-4646 or smenard@yvcc.edu.

Yakima Valley College is located at S. 16th Ave. and Nob Hill Blvd. in Yakima, Wash.

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Heritage University is a non-profit, independent, regionally accredited institution of higher education offering undergraduate and graduate education across the state of Washington.