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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heritage University Expands Scholarship Program to Include More Students

Toppenish, WA – Heritage University is once again offering scholarships to the valley's brightest students, but this time ten of the best, and possibly more, will win a full tuition scholarship to Heritage.

Today Heritage University re-opened "HUSoar.com," a website specifically for students who want to find out more about Heritage University and what opportunities it presents to students. At HUSoar.com, prospective college students can apply for one of ten merit-based scholarships. The scholarships are open to all first time Heritage University students, whether high school graduates or transfer students.

Heritage University first offered Soar Scholarships last year to five new students wanting to earn their degrees in one of five areas of study: nursing, business, the humanities, education, and the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The winners included: Jesica Alvarez, Wapato High School, STEM; Elizabeth Bahe, Eisenhower High School, humanities; Nereyda Barajas, Sunnyside High School, education; Teanna Bentley, East Valley High School, business; and Jonathan Peralta, Eisenhower High School, nursing. This year, administrators are increasing the number of scholarships to ten, and the winners can earn degrees in any of the more than 50 undergraduate degree programs offered at Heritage.

"We are deeply committed to developing the talent we have in the Valley to meet the needs of the future. From agriculture to health care, the demand for well-educated young people is critical to our communities' overall success," said Harold Wingood, associate vice president for enrollment. "The HU Soar Scholarships provide an opportunity for the Valley's most accomplished students to consider the unique academic and co-curricular opportunities Heritage provides."

Wingood also said the small class size at Heritage University means more one-on-one time with professors, greater exposure to valuable internship and research opportunities, more personal contact with administrators including HU President John Bassett, and individual mentoring from first rate faculty and staff.

Going to college at Heritage University is much more than simply taking classes towards a degree; Heritage students get to participate in curriculum that goes beyond the textbook. For example, business administration students win business competitions against the nation's most elite colleges; education students earn their degrees by doing on-the job training at local schools; and nursing students help with free immunization programs in their communities.

The winners of the Soar Scholarship will get to take classes from world-class professors who are considered experts in their fields, including Nobel Prize-winner Michael Durst, who was among 19 new faculty members which joined Heritage this past fall. Durst is an associate professor for the College of Arts & Sciences, and in 2005 he shared the Nobel Prize at the International Atomic Energy Agency for his work on spent fuel removal from Serbia to Russia.

"We are proud to have these top-tier instructors join the ranks of faculty at Heritage University," said Dr. Curt Guaglianone, Provost and VP of Academic Affairs. "We are excited for our students to have a wide range of experts to educate them."

Applications for Soar Scholarships are due February 15, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Applications will be scored based on four criteria: high school or college grades; PSAT/SAT or ACT Scores; a personal commitment statement; and the strength of a letter of recommendation. Finalists will be notified by March 15, 2015, and be invited to campus for an in-person interview with Heritage University faculty and staff as a closing round to determine the Soar Scholarship winners. A minimum of 10 scholarships will be awarded by Heritage. Should the applicant pool merit additional awards, more scholarships may be given. The application, as well as complete details, can be found online at husoar.com.

Questions about the information contained in this press release should be directed to David Wise, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, 509-865-0717 or wise_d@heritage.edu.

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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.