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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Heritage University Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

Toppenish, WA – Heritage University is celebrating the traditions and culture of Native Americans with Native American Heritage Month, a series of events in November highlighting Native American accomplishments, contributions and talents. The events include:

Heritage University students, faculty, staff and the public, are invited to a salmon bake and viewing of a Native American film titled “River People.” Lunch is free, donations are accepted and proceeds will support Heritage University’s Native American High School Campus Visit Day. The salmon lunch and film event takes place **November 6** from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Smith Family Hall, Rm. 2388 located in the Arts & Science Building in the Toppenish campus.

The Heritage University community and the public are invited to a lunch featuring Indian Tacos served by the Heritage University Native American Club. A Native American-themed movie will also be shown during the lunch. This event takes place **November 13** in the Harry Kent Building on the Toppenish campus from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

On **November 14-16**, Heritage University will host the three-day National Indian Education Association Conference, an event for certified teachers and administrators on the effective implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which honors local languages and cultures. The conference will be held each day from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in Smith Family Hall, located in the Arts & Sciences Building.

On Tuesday, **November 18**, Heritage University students, faculty and staff will celebrate American Indian/Alaska native heritage by participating in “Roc Your Mocs,” a nationwide event where people are encouraged to wear moccasins all day. This event also honors the ancestors of indigenous peoples worldwide.

Also on **November 18**, more than 400 Native American students in grades 9 through 12 from Toppenish, Wapato and White Swan High Schools will visit Heritage University as part of “Native American High School Campus Visit Day.” The high school students will hear what college is all about from Native American college students, and will share their culture through performances by their school’s Native American club. The event will be held in the Patricia Wade Temple Room, located inside the Gaye and Jim Pigott Dining Commons from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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Maxine Janis, the President's Liaison for Native American Affairs at Heritage University, will present "Culturally Conscious Dialogue: Cultural Attunement through Critical Consciousness" on **November 19**. Janis will discuss how to use critical consciousness in order to overcome social and political biases. Janis' presentation is part of the ongoing lectures at Heritage known as the "Faculty Research/Scholarship Series," and will be held in Smith Family Hall, Rm. 2388, which is located in the Arts & Sciences Building from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

On **November 25**, The Heritage community and public are invited to the Native American Crafts Creation and Round Dance, an event where participants will be shown how to create their own Native American arts and crafts, including dream catchers, God's eyes, necklaces and key chains. Attendees will also be invited to join in a round dance to pow-wow music performed by drummers. The event takes place in the Patricia Wade Temple Room inside the Gaye and Jim Pigott Dining Commons from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Maxine Janis at (509) 865-0737 or [Janis\\_m@heritage.edu](mailto:Janis_m@heritage.edu), and/or Rose Butterfly at (509) 631-1103 or [butterfly\\_r@heritage.edu](mailto:butterfly_r@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.