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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Heritage University Offers Full-Tuition Scholarships to Valley's  
Brightest Students for Fifth Straight Year**

Toppenish, Wash. – Heritage University is offering full-tuition scholarships to the valley's best and brightest students for a fifth consecutive year.

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

"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 Valley students to not only achieve a rigorous academic experience but also explore the other co-curricular programs that complement their learning experience at Heritage."

Winning a full-tuition Soar Scholarship was life-changing for Estefania Guerrero, a 2015 Soar scholarship winner, now a junior in the University's Bachelor of Science in nursing program. "The opportunity to study nursing has been my dream since I was a child and the Soar Scholarship means I can study full-time and ultimately make a difference right here at home," said Guerrero, who plans to embark upon her nursing career in the Yakima Valley after graduation.

2015 Soar Scholarship winner Anthony Tzib considered other schools that offered him scholarships, but staying close to home while earning a degree was important to him. "Thanks to Soar, I get to go to college without having to leave the place I love," says Tzib. "It makes me feel good because I am

close to the people that mean the world to me, my family.” Tzib is studying visual arts and plans to work in a graphic design firm upon graduation.

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 participate in many community health initiatives, including working with Yakima Valley Interprofessional Practice and Education Collaborative (YVIPEC) to provide immunization at the Central Washington State Fair.

There are two deadlines for this year’s Soar Scholarship. The **first deadline is November 10, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.** Three scholarships will be awarded on January 3, 2018. All applications will remain in the pool for a **second deadline, February 2, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.** Three more scholarships will be awarded on March 1, 2018. Applicants should visit [HUSoar.com](http://HUSoar.com) and complete the online Soar Scholarship application, and upload a personal essay and letter of recommendation.

The Soar merit scholarship program began in 2013. The winners to date include Jessica Alvarez, Wapato High School, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); Elizabeth Bahe, Eisenhower High School, humanities; Nereyda Barajas, Sunnyside High School, education; Teanna Bentley, East Valley High School, business; Jonathan Peralta, Eisenhower High School, nursing; Mireya Cruz, freshman, Heritage University, biomedical science; Lindsey Keesling, junior, Heritage University, English major; Alessa Bryant, CWU & WWU, biomedical science; Estefania Guerrero, Granger High School, nursing; Kaneeta Jeffrey-Zack, Toppenish High School, nursing; Jiovanna Lamas, Wapato High School, mathematics; Idalis Licea, Zillah High School, nursing; Lisalyn Tormey, Riverside Christian High School, medicine; Anthony Tzib, Prosser High School, visual arts; Cynthia Vargas, Eisenhower High School, elementary education; Maria Villanueva, Davis High School, biochemistry; Valentin Zaragoza, Toppenish High School, PA Program; Bretagne Aleck, Yakama Nation Tribal School, education; Ahtziry Salazar, AC Davis High School, biological sciences; Karina Rodriguez, AC Davis High School, computer science; Lesly Gomez, Eisenhower High School, accounting; Susana Figueroa, Yakima Valley Community College, early childhood studies; and Delaney Helmersen, Columbia Basin College, social work; Adrian Araiza, A.C. Davis High School, biomedical sciences; Hema Balderas, Wapato High school, nursing; Rocio Regis, Toppenish High School, psychology; Juan Morales, Sunnyside High

School, psychology; Anyssa Rebollero, Eisenhower High School, undecided:  
and Alondra Guzman, White Swan High School, undecided.

Questions about the information contained in this press release should be  
directed to David Wise, Vice President of University Advancement, Marketing  
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