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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Heritage University Celebrates Native American Heritage Month**

Toppenish, Wash. – Heritage University will celebrate Native American Heritage Month with a series of events across the month of November that celebrate Native American accomplishments and talents. President George H. W. Bush designated November as Native American Heritage Month in 1990.

Some of these events are planned in partnership with the student clubs Heritage University Native American Club (HUNAC) and the American Indian Business Leaders of Heritage University. These events include:

**Wednesday, November 1:** The Yakama Warriors will conduct a flag-raising ceremony at Heritage University starting at 9:00 am. Heritage University students, faculty, staff and the public are invited to attend.

**Wednesday, November 15:** Heritage University students, faculty and staff will celebrate American Indian/Alaska Native heritage by participating in "Rock Your Mocs," a nationwide event where people are encouraged to wear moccasins all day. The event also honors and celebrate tribal traditions and cultures.

**Tuesday, November 21:** Local Native American artists will present their creations, regalia and other traditional projects as part of "The Native Show Case." The artists will share their inspirations for bead work, shawls and other works of art. "The Native Show Case" takes place in the Patricia Wade Temple Conference Room from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 28:** As part of "Native Arts and Crafts Day," Harrah artist, Bessie Wilson "Wahpeniat" will be offering a free class on how to make all-purpose "wa'paas" bags. The class takes place in Smith Family Hall Rm. 2386 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information on these events, contact Stephanie Becenti, HUNAC

co-President at (602) 526-7293 or [becentis@heritage.edu](mailto:becentis@heritage.edu).

The other events planned for Native American Heritage Month are part of Spirituality Week at Heritage University. These include:

**Monday, November 13:** Dr. Lori Arviso Alvord, author of the *Scalpel and the Silver Bear*, will share her inspiring story on how she became the first Navajo woman surgeon. While never forgetting her Native roots, Dr. Alvord strongly advocates blending Western medicine with traditional healing practices. Dr. Alvord's presentation will be held in Smith Family Hall Rm. 2386 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The first 20 people attending this event will receive a copy of the book *Scalpel and the Silver Bear* as a gift.

**Tuesday, November 14:** Heritage University will hold an Interfaith Prayer Gathering featuring spiritual leaders from the Waashat and Shaker faiths. They will offer prayer, songs and wisdom. This event will be held in Smith Family Hall Rm. 2386 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. A lunch of stew and fry bread will be served. Participants will be invited to post prayer requests on the Wall of Prayer in the Pinnell Family Foyer of the Pigott Commons.

**Wednesday, November 15:** Contemporary Native artist, HollyAnna "CougarTracks" DeCoteau Littlebull will hold an art therapy session which focuses on reducing plastic waste by turning it into artistic creations and practical construction materials. This will be held in Smith Family Hall Rm. 2386 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Thursday, November 16:** Teacher and art therapist, Sister Sue Woodruff, snjm, will present "Soothing the Ragged Edges: Preventive Medicine and First Aid for Our Spirit Life" at Heritage University. This event will be held in Smith Family Hall Rm. 2386 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Friday, November 17:** The Heritage University Spirituality Committee presents "Gratitude for Life," a prayer-releasing ceremony which will be followed by a guided walk of the Heritage University Labyrinth. The ceremony begins in Smith Family Hall Rm. 2390, and will conclude at the Labyrinth located on the Great Lawn.

For more information on these events, contact Maxine Janis, President's Liaison for Native American Affairs at (509) 865-0737 or [janis\\_m@heritage.edu](mailto:janis_m@heritage.edu).

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