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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heritage University Announces Winners of HU Soar Scholarships

Toppenish, WA – Today Heritage University announced the seven winners of the HU Soar Scholarships. The winners are some of the brightest in the Yakima Valley, and will receive a full-tuition scholarship for the achievement of an undergraduate degree at Heritage University.

Five scholarships were awarded to incoming students who will be starting at Heritage in the fall. They were selected based on the strength of their high school grades, SAT or ACT Scores, a personal statement, a letter of recommendation and a personal interview with a faculty member from the University. The recipients, their high schools, and their majors are:

1. Jessica Alvarez, Wapato High School, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);
2. Elizabeth Bahe, Eisenhower High School, humanities;
3. Nereyda Barajas, Sunnyside High School, education;
4. Teanna Bentley, East Valley High School, business;
5. Jonathan Peralta, Eisenhower High School, nursing.

Two additional merit scholarships were awarded to existing Heritage University students. The awards were also based on their academic successes.

1. Mireya Cruz, freshman, biomedical sciences major;
2. Lindsey Keesling, junior, English major.

The seven recipients were chosen from a pool of 26 finalists that came from more than one hundred applicants. Harold Wingood, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, said the selection committee had a tough time narrowing down the winners to seven.

"It was such a daunting task to select the winners. We received high caliber applications from so many of the students, we wish we could award a scholarship to each and every one of them," says Wingood.

Along with the scholarships, the recipients will be able to take advantage of the other unique aspects of attending Heritage University. Students have the opportunity to learn from world-class professors right here in the Yakima Valley, and participate in career-launching internships with local businesses. That's what prompted winner Jonathan Peralta to apply for a Soar scholarship in the first place.

"I'm going to study nursing," says Peralta, "and to be in a medical program that prepares us for the 'real world of work' through clinical rotations is very exciting."

The small-campus feel of Heritage University also provides students a more personalized, top-notch education. That proved too good of an opportunity to pass up for Elizabeth Bahe of Yakima, a Eisenhower High School senior, who also applied for, and won a scholarship.

"I know I will appreciate smaller class sizes, more one-on-one contact with my professors, and individual tutoring and advising from experienced faculty and staff at Heritage University," said Bahe.

The website "HUSoar.com" was built specifically for prospective students to learn about and apply for the Soar scholarships. Visitors to HUSoar.com can still learn more on what Heritage University has to offer.

For more information, contact Harold Wingood, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, (509) 865-0404 or Wingood_H@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.