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Date: June 30, 2014

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heritage University Board of Directors Extends President's Contract Five Years

Toppenish, WA – Heritage University's Board of Directors today announced a five year extension of President John Bassett's contract, securing his leadership of the university through 2020.

Rick Pinnell, Chair of Heritage University's Board of Directors, says lengthening Dr. Bassett's term as president is proof that, in 2010, Bassett was the absolute right choice to lead Heritage as it began a period of growth.

"As Heritage continues to evaluate its degree program offerings to best meet the needs of the community and make major infrastructure upgrades to best meet the needs of its students the Board believes Bassett's leadership is critical to the university's success," says Pinnell.

Dr. Bassett is honored by the Board's decision to extend his leadership of Heritage, which has allowed him to guide the university in its mission to provide a high quality postsecondary education to multicultural populations which have been educationally isolated. "After more than 40 years in higher education, coming to Heritage University has been one of the most significant events in my career," says Bassett. "The transformation of lives that students undergo at Heritage is nothing like I've experienced in my career."

John Bassett, Ph.D., is a scholar, author, professor of American literature and the second president at Heritage University. He took office in July 2010 after serving as president of Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts for ten years.

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Prior to his career at Clark, Dr. Bassett was the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of English at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland from 1993 to 2000. He holds a doctoral degree in English from the University of Rochester and completed his master's and bachelor's degrees at Ohio Wesleyan University. Dr. Bassett has published 11 books and more than 30 professional articles.

He lives in Yakima with his wife, Kay.

To schedule an interview with Dr. Bassett, please contact Suzy Diaz, Executive Assistant to the President, (509) 865-0713, or diaz_s@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.