

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Heritage University and ESD 105 share in \$9-million federal grant**

Yakima, WA — U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced Tuesday that Heritage University and Educational Service District 105 will share in a \$9-million federal Teacher Quality Partnership grant. The funds are part of a national push to strengthen learning through improvements and innovation in teacher education.

The Heritage University-ESD 105 partnership will receive \$9,017,011 in the five-year grant, which is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In the Yakima Valley, the funds will support the University's and the ESD's joint program called Heritage 105. This new program dramatically changes how new teachers are trained. In the traditional model, undergraduate and graduate students complete several years of practical and theory work in a classroom before they step foot into a K-12 school. Through Heritage 105, college students who have completed their first two years of undergraduate work and incoming graduate students with a degree in a field other than education will move directly into elementary classrooms. There, they will work with lead teachers, learning hands-on four days a week and completing intensive all-day seminars weekly. Undergraduate students will work in the schools for two years and will earn a bachelor of arts degree. Graduate students will take three semesters to complete a master of teaching degree.

“We have long known that teachers learn best from their peers,” said Corrine McGuigan, professor and associate dean of Heritage University's College of Education and Psychology. “This program will serve as a national model on how we can dramatically improve the quality of new teachers while improving our children's education both now and in the future.”

“This is one of the most exciting projects that I have been involved in, and I appreciate Heritage University taking a lead role in it,” said Ian Grabenhorst, ESD 105 assistant superintendent for Educational Services. “It will provide us a unique opportunity to look at teacher preparation in a whole new light, using the learning environments of actual classrooms in some of our school districts. Pre-service educators who are training to become teachers will be connected to their work through collaborative teams based on classroom teaching content and standards of performance. Kudos to Heritage and all of its partners.”

Heritage 105 was one of twelve projects funded through the Department of Education’s grant. All of the partnerships are comprised of high-need school districts and their high-need schools in collaboration with institutions of higher education and their schools of education and arts and sciences.

“Teaching has never been more difficult, or more important, and the need for student success has never been more urgent,” said Secretary Duncan. “These grants will strengthen teacher preparation and residency programs to ensure that new teachers, whether entering from college or from other careers, have the skills to boost student learning and be highly effective in today’s diverse and challenging classrooms.”

Heritage University will begin offering Heritage 105 starting fall semester 2010. It will continue to offer traditional paths to undergraduate and graduate degrees in education as well. Prospective students interested in either path should contact the Heritage University College of Education and Psychology at (509) 865-8650.

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