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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heritage renames signature building for founding president

Toppenish, WA— Heritage University's Board of Directors is honoring the institution's founding president by renaming the building that housed her office since its construction. In mid October, the Library and Learning Center will become the Kathleen Ross, snjm Center.

Ross led the university from its founding in 1981 until passing on the presidency to Dr. John Bassett in mid July 2010. During her tenure, Heritage grew from its humble beginnings of 85 students and four academic degree programs situated in borrowed space to a thriving 23 acre campus, a student body topping 1,300, and 33 degree offerings. She led the expansion of Heritage through cooperative agreements with community colleges across Washington State and oversaw the renaming of the institution from Heritage College to Heritage University to reflect its substantial master's degree programs and the growing stature of its academic programs. Under Ross's tutelage, Heritage awarded nearly 7,000 undergraduate and graduate degrees.

"Dr. Ross will always be an important part of Heritage University. Because of her vision and dedication, the university defied all odds. It has helped and will continue to help people in the Valley to overcome their odds, to graduate from college, and to enter successful and fulfilling careers in our communities," said Bassett.

The center was the first dedicated and permanently constructed facility built in 1993 to house the library, classrooms, computer labs, and executive offices. Its brick façade with its native basket weaving design is the architectural inspiration for each of the buildings constructed thereafter.

The renaming will officially take place during a ceremony held in front of the facility at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 18 on the Toppenish campus located at 3240 Fort Road. The ceremony will include the unveiling of a portrait commissioned by Heritage's Associated Student Body by renowned artist Alfredo Arreguin. A reception will follow the ceremony. The event is open to the public.

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