

**Date:** November 10, 2009

**Contact:** Bonnie Hughes, Communications Officer, 509-865-8588 or [hughes\\_b@heritage.edu](mailto:hughes_b@heritage.edu)

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Medical Lab Scientist Training is Coming to the Tri-Cities**

Toppenish, WA—Heritage University and Tri-Cities Laboratory (TCL) are partnering to bring Central Washington’s only Clinical Lab Sciences (CLS) program to the Tri-Cities.

The two organizations recently signed an agreement that will allow CLS students to complete the clinical internship portion of their studies at Tri-Cities Laboratory’s facilities located in Kadlec Medical Center, Kennewick General Hospital, Lourdes Medical Center, and their central lab. Along with providing the facility and mentors for training, TCL and their hospital partners will provide scholarships for students. TCL joins existing partners Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital and Yakima Regional Medical and Cardiac Center.

“We are thrilled to be working with Tri-Cities Laboratory,” said Terese Abreu, director of the CLS program. “Their support will allow us to expand the program and open it to more students.”

Laboratory science is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States. Medical laboratory scientist may be employed in hospitals, clinics, research facilities, industry, universities, biochemical companies, veterinary/zoos, public health, or other health related agencies. Through the sophisticated scientific tests they perform on blood, tissue, and body fluids technologists aide pathologists and physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

“Our region, like much of the United States, needs skilled medical scientists in order to provide the highest level of patient care,” said Paul Christensen, General Manager of TCL. “We are very excited about this partnership that will help us attract and train qualified personnel.”

Heritage is currently recruiting students for the next academic year. Students need to have a Bachelor of Science to enter directly into the program. They will complete one year of study that includes four months of pre-clinical training on the Toppenish campus and an additional eight months as a clinical intern in either the Tri-Cities or Yakima. The application deadline for the next academic year is December 20.

###