

**Date:** October 28, 2010

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

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Inauguration for Heritage University's Second President**

Toppenish, WA – Heritage University is celebrating its past and looking toward the future with the inauguration of its second president in November. Dr. John Bassett, who took the helm of the institution in July, will be officially sworn into office during the inauguration's culminating event.

“Heritage has never been in a better position. John brings to us a commitment to academic inclusion and excellence, a strong vision for the future and a lifetime of proven leadership in higher education,” said Paul Moulton, chairman of the board of directors. “He is absolutely the best person to lead us at this important time in our history.”

Prior to joining Heritage, Dr. Bassett served as the president of Clark University, a private liberal arts college in Worcester, Massachusetts, for ten years. He is a nationally recognized leader in higher education, serving as the chairman of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and on several other higher education boards, including the Phi Beta Kappa Fellows and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Dr. Bassett holds a doctoral degree in English from the University of Rochester and completed his master's and bachelor's degrees at Ohio Wesleyan University. He has published 11 books and more than 30 professional articles.

Inaugurations are traditional celebrations that include a variety of events that lead to the formal installation of the president into office. Heritage has three public events scheduled, including an open lecture by Dr. Bassett at the Seattle Public Library at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 6; a reception at Columbia Basin College, in Pasco, one of Heritage's partner colleges, at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10; and the culminating event, the formal installation of Dr. Bassett to the presidency on Saturday, November 13 at 11:00 a.m. in Smith Family Hall on the Toppenish campus.

Heritage University is a non-profit, independent, regionally accredited institution of higher education offering undergraduate and graduate education across the state of Washington.

The installation will be the most formal and symbolic part of the week's activities. It will open with a colorful procession of delegates from other colleges, universities, and academic societies and associations, in full academic regalia; visiting dignitaries; faculty; the Board of Directors; and members of the presidential party. The ceremony itself will feature Dr. Judith Eaton, president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, making the keynote address; the swearing in of Dr. Bassett; and his inaugural remarks. The public is invited to attend the ceremony.

More information on Dr. Bassett, the inauguration, and the history and meaning behind the ceremony can be found online at [www.heritage.edu](http://www.heritage.edu).

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