

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 14, 2014

Media Contact: Michelle Ma Chief Communications Officer Office (509) 527-5768, Cell (509) 520-0071 mamk@whitman.edu

> Whitman College to host Walla Walla Valley Violence Prevention Conference March 27 Free event supported by a number of local agencies

(Washington State)—On Thursday, Mar. 27, Whitman College will host the third Walla Walla Valley Violence Prevention Conference. Organized by the Walla Walla Valley Violence Prevention Coalition, the goal of this oneday conference is to raise awareness of the rights of crime victims, and enhance prevention of violence and other forms of harm in the Walla Walla Valley. The conference is also sponsored by numerous other local organizations, including the Walla Walla Police Department and Walla Walla Area Crime Watch, the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office, Walla Walla Public Schools, Children's Home Society of Washington, the Children's Resilience Initiative, YWCA, Friends of Walla Walla, and the Walla Walla Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Rose J. Torgerson will give the keynote address, "30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice," in Maxey Auditorium at 8:30 a.m. on March 27. Torgerson is Director of Training at the Washington Coalition of Crime Victim Advocates, a nonprofit organization that works to support and strengthen victim rights, services and systems through collaboration, outreach, awareness and education.

All events are free and open to the public.

The Walla Walla Valley Violence Prevention Conference takes place on Thursday, Mar. 27 in Maxey Auditorium on the Whitman College campus. Check-in and registration begin in Maxey Hall Auditorium Foyer at 7:45 a.m., and workshops and presentations run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For the full schedule of events and to register online, visit: <u>http://wwviolenceprevention.com</u>. Event updates will be posted online at the site, or on the event Facebook page <u>www.facebook.com/WWViolencePrevention</u>.

###

About the Walla Walla Valley Violence Prevention Coalition

The Walla Walla Valley Violence Prevention Coalition is an informally organized group of people from social service, educational, law enforcement, faith-based, and government agencies and institutions in the Greater Walla Walla area. The Coalition meets regularly, shares expertise and develops plans to raise awareness, enhance prevention and improve strategies for responding to violence and related forms of harm in the Walla Walla Valley, including, but not limited to violent crimes, domestic and partner violence, stalking and bullying, child abuse, internet and cyber-crimes, addiction and suicide.

## About Whitman College

Founded in 1882, Whitman College is a highly selective private, independent, co-educational, non-sectarian residential liberal arts and sciences undergraduate college located in Walla Walla, Washington. The college is home to approximately 1,500 undergraduate students exploring forty-five departmental majors that lead to a Bachelor of Arts degree. Whitman College students develop capacities to analyze, interpret, criticize, communicate, and engage. A concentration on basic disciplines, in combination with a supportive residential life program, fosters intellectual vitality, confidence, leadership, and the flexibility to succeed in a changing technological, multicultural world.