MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Western Washington University’s Vehicle Research Institute’s Viking 45 team made an inspirational run through the Progressive Automotive X-Prize competition this past summer; and

WHEREAS, the $10 million competition was held to promote the design and construction of the next generation of ultra-fuel-efficient cars; and

WHEREAS, the Western VRI team used its modest resources and outlasted multinational corporate teams with nearly unlimited funding; and

WHEREAS, the Western VRI team was one of more than 100 entries in the competition and was the only North American university to finish in the top 10 in the competition; and

WHEREAS the Western VRI team was the popular underdog in the competition of because of its uniquely Western approach of student and faculty collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the X-Prize team brought new levels of prestige and honor to the VRI and Western; and

WHEREAS, the Western VRI team attracted media coverage in outlets such as Consumer Reports, Sierra Magazine, Popular Mechanics, National Geographic and National Public Radio; and

WHEREAS, the Western VRI team showed the world that Western’s students, faculty and alumni can compete with anyone on the highest level; and

WHEREAS, the Western VRI team rallied the university and community behind an amazing program that benefits not only Bellingham but the whole world with its research.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO I, Dan Pike, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, proclaim October 8, 2010

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY VEHICLE RESEARCH INSTITUTE VIKING 45 DAY

in the City of Bellingham, Washington.

Signed this 8th day of October 2010.

Dan Pike, Mayor
City of Bellingham