



## Joint Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Bruce and Cyndie Shepard have served as President and First Lady of Western Washington University since 2008 and during that time have exemplified “Active Minds Changing Lives” by positively impacting the lives of thousands of WWU students and Whatcom County residents of all ages through their leadership and actions over the past eight years; and

**WHEREAS**, under Bruce Shepard’s leadership, Western Washington University has brought great pride and recognition to Bellingham, Whatcom County, Northwest Washington, and to the State of Washington by being recognized by U.S. News and World Report as the No. 1 master’s degree granting university in the Pacific Northwest. In addition, Western has received numerous other national recognition during Dr. Shepard’s eight year tenure as president; and

**WHEREAS**, Bruce Shepard has brought to life his mantra that “communities support universities that support communities” by consistently being a strong partner with the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County and exemplifying leadership that builds bridges in the local community; and

**WHEREAS**, Cyndie Shepard’s tireless efforts will have a lasting impact on the lives of students and families in Whatcom County and beyond through her creation, development and leadership of Western’s Compass 2 Campus program, a nationally recognized, award winning mentoring initiative that places Western students in local school districts to encourage students to graduate from high school and pursue higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of her volunteer work in creating and leading the Compass 2 Campus program, Cyndie Shepard was recognized in 2013 by being selected to receive a Daily Point of Life Award, a national recognition program that was founded by former President George H. W. Bush; and

**WHEREAS**, during Bruce and Cyndie’s tenure, Western conducted the most successful comprehensive fundraising campaign in the school’s history, with fifty percent of campaign gifts coming from Whatcom County residents, including gifts from eighteen percent of Western alumni living in Whatcom County, highlighting community pride for the university and the fact that what benefits Western also benefits community members; and

**WHEREAS**, Bruce Shepard and Western have worked collaboratively with local partners on the Bellingham Waterfront project over the years and remains committed to expanding the university campus to the waterfront and helping this project become a reality; and

**WHEREAS**, Bruce Shepard has demonstrated steadfast commitment to strengthening town-grown relationships through ongoing support of the Campus Community Coalition and attentive outreach to neighborhoods adjacent to the campus; and


**WHEREAS**, in the last year Bruce and Cyndie Shepard's commitment to the people of Bellingham and Whatcom County were duly recognized as they were honored with the Public Servant Award from the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center for *leadership and commitment to equality, empowerment, and communication*, and the Ken Gass Community Building Award from the Whatcom Family & Community Network for their contributions to suicide awareness, educational equity and for linking WWU students to public school youth, serving as examples of the long-reach throughout the community that the Shepards' work has had over the past eight years.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE, Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive, do hereby proclaim June 16, 2016 to be:

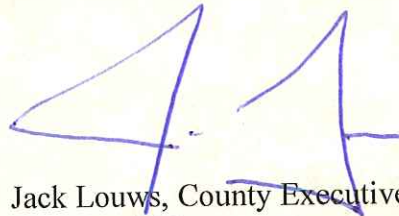
**BRUCE AND CYNDIE SHEPARD DAY**

In the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County.

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June 2016



Kelli Linville, Mayor  
City of Bellingham



Jack Louws, County Executive  
County of Whatcom

