



WHITWORTH

Welcome from the President of Whitworth University

Whitworth University is proud to welcome students from Eastern Washington University, Gonzaga University, Washington State University-Spokane, Community Colleges of Spokane and Whitworth to the 13th Annual Spokane Intercollegiate Research Conference (SIRC). This event provides an opportunity for students to celebrate the research they have completed and to disseminate the results of their work to their peers and the public. In so doing, they join an academic enterprise that for centuries has advanced the frontiers of knowledge and applied that knowledge to solving the world's most complex problems.

The great medieval philosopher and theologian Thomas Aquinas may be considered one of the fathers of the modern university and, in many ways, of SIRC. He recognized reason as one of humankind's greatest gifts, and that the greatest use of human reason was to pursue knowledge and truth wherever they may be found. His careful examination of the natural world (science) led him to understandings of history, philosophy and theology (humanities) and of economics, politics and psychology (social science) that had tremendous influence on Western thought and that are reflected in the breadth of subjects explored at this conference.

Aquinas also is known for an extraordinary body of writings in which he shared his knowledge with the world. As we make discoveries and gain insights through our research, we bear the responsibility to submit our work to the review of others in our field and to share what we have learned with the broader public. Peer review and public dissemination go hand in hand with the underlying research in expanding the body of knowledge needed to solve the critical problems we face. The students presenting at SIRC take that responsibility seriously, and I thank you.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of Whitworth University, I welcome you to our campus and applaud your contributions to the noble and important enterprise of academic scholarship and research.

Sincerely,

Beck A. Taylor, Ph.D.

President

Whitworth University