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Rockwood Retirement Communities and Whitworth University Partner to Benefit Students, Residents and Alumni

SPOKANE, Wa. – Two Spokane cornerstones, [Whitworth University](#) and [Rockwood Retirement Communities](#), have formalized a partnership that will offer students, residents and alumni unique access to educational, social and entertainment opportunities on their respective campuses.

In honor of the agreement, Rockwood Hawthorne, one of Rockwood Retirement's senior living communities located within walking distance of university grounds, will change its name to Rockwood at Whitworth.

“For years, we’ve enjoyed a natural connection with Whitworth University, both through proximity and the current and former Pirates who work and live at our community,” said Alan Curryer, Rockwood Retirement’s president and CEO. “The benefits this partnership will bring people of all ages can’t be overstated. Most importantly for our residents, this agreement opens more doors for them to explore quality educational pursuits, strengthen their engagement with the greater community, and continue to grow socially and spiritually.”

Specific details of the full benefits of the affiliation are still being evaluated, but ideas being considered are as diverse as they are abundant. They include:

- Firsthand career experience for students through more employment and internship opportunities at Rockwood at Whitworth
- Access to university lectures and other educational resources for residents
- Access to university sporting events, performances and other on-campus resources for residents
- Alumni and faculty speaker series at Rockwood at Whitworth
- Mentorship programs, intergenerational classes and student-led seminars

“The new Rockwood at Whitworth partnership will feature the best of intergenerational community and learning,” said Beck A. Taylor, Whitworth University’s president. “Whitworth emphasizes lifelong learning, and the opportunities for Rockwood at Whitworth residents to participate in university life will embody those values. Additionally, Whitworth’s students and educational offerings, student life programs and spiritual life programs will benefit from increased access to residents who want to pour their lives into our students’ success.”

The partnership comes at a time when both organizations continue to explore growth opportunities and make considerable investments in north Spokane. Whitworth is investing \$15 million in new and renovated facilities this coming year, including an Athletics Leadership Center. The university is also considering an additional investment of \$20 to \$30 million over the next two to three years to expand academic and residential facilities. Rockwood Retirement Communities recently announced a two-phase, \$69 million community redevelopment at its newly renamed Rockwood at Whitworth campus. The project will transform its current footprint with nearly 200 new residences and a suite of amenities that will include a fitness center, salon/spa and multiple dining venues.

According to the [Retirement Living Information Center](#), this is only the second affiliation in Washington State between a senior living community and a higher education institution, and the first such affiliation in Spokane. There are currently about 85 similar relationships nationwide.

For more information, or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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About Whitworth University

Located in Spokane, Wash., Whitworth is a private liberal arts university affiliated with the Presbyterian Church. The university, which has an enrollment of more than 3,000 students, offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

About Rockwood Retirement Communities

For nearly 60 years, Rockwood Retirement Communities has strived to enrich the lives of Spokane seniors. Guided by respect, integrity and Christian values, Rockwood Retirement remains one of the Inland Northwest's only mission-driven, locally owned, nonprofit senior living providers. Its two communities, Rockwood Hawthorne and Rockwood South Hill, provide residents with a complete spectrum of living options along with a variety of programs, services and amenities. For more information, visit them at 2903 East 25th Avenue in Spokane, visit them [online](#), or call 509-536-6650.