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## Coroner rules death of WSU's Len Foster caused by heart attack

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### Tribune

COLFAX - The Whitman County coroner has ruled that a heart attack caused the July 3 death of Lenoar (Len) Foster, Washington State University's interim College of Education dean.

Foster, 57, died at his Pullman home just days after he was named to replace Judy Mitchell, 70, who died on June 26. A determination on her cause of death is expected after toxicology test results are returned to the coroner, said Pullman police Sgt. Dan Dornes.

"We weren't certain in her case right off the bat what might be the cause of death," Dornes said. Officials have said they believe Mitchell's death was from natural causes, however.

According to a news release from Coroner Peter J. Martin, Foster died from a "sudden cardiac event due to underlying coronary artery disease." He had a history of hypertension and diabetes, Martin said.

Foster became a member of the College of Education faculty in 2003 and served as its associate dean for three years. Mitchell was WSU's longest-serving dean, spending 11 years as the college's leader.

WSU named Phyllis Erdman as interim dean after Foster's death. She had been chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling Psychology since 2003.