



BMCC PENDLETON
2411 NW Carden Ave. ♦ PO Box 100 ♦ Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 276-1260 ♦ www.bluecc.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 6, 2019

Contact: Casey White-Zollman, Vice President of College Relations & Advancement
541-278-5839, cwhitezollman@bluecc.edu

BMCC English instructor wins poetry award for latest book

PENDLETON, Ore. – Blue Mountain Community College English and writing instructor Shaindel Beers was recently awarded the Woodrow Hall Top Shelf Award from Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf for her poetry collection, *Secure Your Own Mask*. The award honors books of poetry published in 2018.

Beers released *Secure Your Own Mask* in 2018 with White Pine Press, and has earned several honors for the collection, which features poems that deal with domestic violence. She won the White Pine Poetry Prize for 2017 for the publication, and *Secure Your Own Mask* has continued to win praise from the literary community.

“It’s a great honor to win a Woodrow Hall Top Shelf Award from Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf because their mission is so wonderful,” Beers said. “It is to ‘bring poetry out of the libraries, bookstores and classrooms into the general public arena.’ I applaud this mission because poetry is for everyone. *Secure Your Own Mask* is a deeply personal book, and I’m heartened that it’s really resonating with people, especially people who might not have thought of themselves as poetry lovers.”

Secure Your Own Mask is Beers’ third published book, following *A Brief History of Time* (2009) and *The Children’s War and Other Poems* (2013), both from Salt Publishing. She also serves as poetry editor of *Contrary Magazine*. Her books are available for purchase through Amazon or through Beers’ website, www.shaindelbeers.com.

###

BMCC BAKER COUNTY
3275 Baker St.
Baker City, OR 97814
(541) 523-9127

BMCC HERMISTON
975 SE Columbia Dr.
Hermiston, OR 97838
(541) 567-1800

BMCC MILTON-FREEWATER
311 N Columbia Dr.
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862
(541) 938-7176

BMCC MORROW COUNTY
PO Box 939/300 NE Front St.
Boardman, OR 97818
(541) 481-2099