

For Immediate Release

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Award-Winning Documentary *American Winter* Dramatizes State of Middle Class

The award-winning documentary *American Winter*, which examines the precarious state of the middle class through the lives of eight Oregon families, will play in Pendleton on February 23 at the Blue Mountain Community College Theatre.

Following the 6:00 p.m. screening, a panel of experts will discuss the issues raised by the film, including poverty, homelessness and steps to grow and strengthen the middle class.

“The film provides a vivid portrait of how, in the wealthiest nation in the world, the economy is failing many of our families,” said **Chuck Sheketoff**, executive director of the Oregon Center for Public Policy. He appears in the film providing expert commentary and will be one of the panelists following the screening of the documentary. “The film is a call to action to reduce poverty and strengthen the middle class.”

The other panelists are **Donna Kinnaman**, CEO, Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO); **Pete Wells**, Member and Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church of Pendleton, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Eastern Oregon; and **Tina Martinez**, Sociology Instructor, Blue Mountain Community College.

American Winter resonates particularly strongly in Oregon, which provides the setting for the documentary. Emmy Award-winning directors Joe and Harry Gantz spent a winter in Oregon filming the documentary. Their website explains that the film “puts a face on these invisible families who have lost their jobs and can’t find work, or who are working full time and overtime, yet don’t make enough per hour to pull their families out of poverty.”

The film has garnered multiple awards, including Best Documentary Feature in the 2013 Portland Film Festival.

This screening of *American Winter* and the panel discussion that will follow is sponsored by Blue Mountain Community College, First Presbyterian Church, and CAPECO.

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Details:

Date: February 23, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Cost: Free Admission

Place: Bob Clapp Theatre, Blue Mountain Community College, 2411 NW Carden, Pendleton, Or.

More information on *American Winter*:

Reviews: <http://www.americanwinterfilm.com/press-clippings>

Trailer and more information: <http://www.americanwinterfilm.com>