



For Immediate Release

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BridgeValley Hosts Laura Bentley and Mary Imo-Stike

*Poets to perform select readings for college's Womxn Empowerment Series on
February 25*

South Charleston, WV - BridgeValley Community and Technical College will continue empowering womxn across West Virginia when it welcomes authors Laura Bentley and Mary Imo-Stike to its South Charleston campus for Women's Journeys to Self-Empowerment, a speaker series comprised of selected writings, on Tuesday, February 25.

A novelist, poet and amateur photographer, Bentley's work has been published in the United States and Ireland, and featured in *A Prairie Home Companion*, *Poetry Daily*, and *O Magazine*. She is the author of poetry artbook *Looking for Ireland: An Irish Appalachian Pilgrimage* (2017); *The Silver Tattoo* (2013), a literary thriller set in Ireland; *Night Terrors* (2015), a short story prequel, and poetry collection, *Lake Effect* (2006).

A resident of Huntington, Bentley read her poetry with Ray Bradbury in 2003 and signed books with Nora Roberts at Roberts' Turn The Page Bookstore in 2017.

Although Imo-Stike's career history includes careers as a railroad track laborer, plumber, boiler operator and gas line inspector, the Rochester, New York native tapped into her creative side when she became the co-creator of *More Than Words*, a monthly literary event in Hurricane.

The recipient of a Master of Fine Arts from West Virginia Wesleyan College, Imo-Stike previously served as the poetry co-editor of *HeartWood* literary journal. Her poetry has been published in multiple journals and her chapbook *In and Out of the Horse Latitudes* was published in 2018 by *Finishing Line Press*.

Women's Journeys to Self-Empowerment Select Readings includes Bentley and Imo-Stike's A Suite of Three Poems and I Loved You Before, and will be held at 12:15 p.m. in room 307 of B2000 at BridgeValley's South Charleston campus, 2001 Union Carbide Drive.

For more information on other Womxn Empowerment events throughout the semester, please visit <https://www.bridgevalley.edu/we>.

About BridgeValley Community and Technical College

BridgeValley Community and Technical College promotes student success, prepares a skilled workforce, and builds tomorrow's leaders by providing access to quality higher education. BridgeValley Community and Technical College will be the college of opportunity for a diverse learner population, offering leading-edge technology, innovative ideas, and dynamic service to our students and our communities. BridgeValley Community and Technical College serves a six-county region including Fayette, Raleigh, Nicholas, Clay, Putnam and Kanawha counties. The college operates two campuses in Montgomery and South Charleston, along with the addition of the new Advanced Technology Center. BridgeValley Community and Technical College is a public institution of higher education independently accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges and a member of the Community and Technical College System of West Virginia.

For more information about BridgeValley Community and Technical College financial aid opportunities, programs of study, workforce training and community education and events, call (304) 205-6600 or; or check the College's website: <http://www.bridgevalley.edu>