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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Author to Speak at Heritage University's International Women's Day Event**

Toppenish, Wash. – Author Shannon Huffman Polson will serve as the keynote speaker at "Women 2 Women," Heritage University's celebration of International Women's Day on Saturday, March 11, 2017. Polson's presentation is titled "The Grit Project: Leading from Any Seat."

Four years ago Polson published "North of Hope," a story of how she used music, nature and faith to overcome the grief of losing her parents. In addition to "North of Hope," Polson's essays and articles have appeared in Huffington Post, High Country News, Seattle and Alaska Magazines, and other publications. She studied English Literature at Duke University, business at Dartmouth, and received her MFA from Seattle Pacific University.

"Women 2 Women" celebrates the women of the Yakima Valley and supports early childhood education. It is organized by Heritage University's Women 2 Women collaborative and is sponsored by the university's Center for a New Washington. Funds generated by the event go to child care scholarships for students whose children attend the Early Learning Center.

"Education is a key factor to improving the lives of women and children," said Kay Bassett, director for the center. "The stress of taking care of children can take its toll and become a barrier to women trying to earn their college degree. We want to break down these barriers."

Doors open for the event at 9:00 a.m., the program begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at noon. The event features displays celebrating the accomplishments of local women in both art and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Refreshments will be served. Registration is \$50, and can be completed online at [www.heritage.edu/2017Women2Women](http://www.heritage.edu/2017Women2Women). For more information call (509) 865-0450, or email [newwashington@heritage.edu](mailto:newwashington@heritage.edu).

**About International Women's Day** International Women's Day is celebrated every year around the world during the first weekend in March. The celebration represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality.

**About Women 2 Women at Heritage University** The Women 2 Women collaborative at Heritage University is a group of faculty, staff and community members and who are passionate about supporting women students at the university. Their purpose is to engage the philanthropic commitment of women in the community to help remove barriers to the educational success of our women students at Heritage.

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