

Traci Brimhall: Full Biography

Traci Brimhall, a University Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing and Narrative Medicine at Kansas State University, is celebrated for her unique poetry that intertwines the ordinary with the surreal. She has authored five poetry collections, including the upcoming "Love Prodigal" (Copper Canyon Press, 2024), and her work has been prominently featured in journals such as *The New Yorker*, *Orion*, *The New Republic*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. Brimhall's teaching experiences, supported by fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, National Parks Service, and Academy of American Poets, have spanned diverse settings from farm schools to medical communities, reflecting her commitment to fostering creative expression across varied environments.

As the current Poet Laureate of Kansas, Brimhall has focused her initiatives on uniting the state's agricultural heritage with literary arts. Her advocacy includes projects like poetry cookbooks, food-based mad lib poems, and bringing poetry to the State Fair, aiming to enrich the lives of all Kansans through language.

Brimhall's literary contributions extend beyond poetry to include essays published in prestigious journals such as *Georgia Review*, *The Southern Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*. Her accolades include awards like the Barnard Women Poets Prize for "Our Lady of the Ruins," and her work has been recognized in Best American Poetry anthologies.

Educationally, Brimhall holds degrees from Florida State University (BA), Sarah Lawrence College (MFA), and Western Michigan University (PhD). At Kansas State University, where she directs the creative writing program and holds the Donnelly Faculty Award in English, she continues to inspire and mentor aspiring writers.

Her numerous residencies and fellowships include an Artist-in-Residence position at Bighorn Canyon through the National Parks Service and the My Time fellowship from the Writers Colony at Dairy Hollow. Brimhall's scholarly pursuits also include the Karnes Fellowship from Purdue Libraries, focusing on the unpublished poems of Amelia Earhart.

Traci Brimhall's career exemplifies a profound dedication to poetic innovation, community engagement, and scholarly exploration, making her a pivotal figure in contemporary American poetry and beyond.