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POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST
NEW MEXICO STATE FINALS
February 12, 2012

Santa Fe – Join eleven New Mexico high school students at the St. Francis Auditorium of the New Mexico Museum of Art on Sunday February 12, 2012 at 1 p.m., as they compete to become New Mexico’s Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest Finalist. New Mexico Centennial Poet Laureate Levi Romero is scheduled to perform. Admission for the event is free to the public.

“Poetry Out Loud encourages students to begin a love affair with words, ideas, and imagination that will inspire them throughout their academic journeys and their careers,” said Rocco Landesman, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

“The public recitation of great poetry,” said John Barr, President of the Poetry Foundation, “is a way to honor the speaker, the poem, and the audience all at once. Poetry Out Loud brings new energy to an ancient art by returning it to the classrooms of America.”

The New Mexico competition was held statewide and 10 schools and almost 1,600 youth and over 30 teachers participated at the classroom level. Schools winners participating in the state finals include Dylan Holmes of La Cueva High School, Albuquerque; Jeremy Anderson of Public Academy for Performing Arts, Albuquerque; Triniti Pankuch of Southwest Learning Centers, Albuquerque; Elyssa Moreno of Carlsbad High School, Carlsbad; Stephanie Garcia of Clayton High School, Clayton; Savannah Armijo of Clovis High School, Clovis; Ethan Wertz of Deming High School, Deming; Camille Torres of Oñate High School, Las Cruces; and, Clair Willden of Raton High School, Raton. Bloomfield High School has yet to name their champion. This year’s judges include poet Zachary Kluckman, poet Donald Levering, actress and playwright Leslie Dillen, and poet David Markwardt (accuracy judge).

The state winner will receive $200, plus $500 for their school library for the purchase of poetry books, and all expense-paid trip (with adult chaperone) to Washington, DC, to compete at the National Finals. The National Champion receives $20,000 in prizes.
Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation and state arts agencies. The New Mexico project of the national poetry recitation contest is sponsored by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Poetry Out Loud encourages the nation’s youth to learn about great poetry through exploration, memorization, and performance. The inspiration for this program is to promote poetry in both the classroom and the community. Performers are judged on physical presence, voice and articulation, appropriateness of dramatization, level of difficulty, evidence of understanding and accuracy.

The New Mexico Museum of Art is located at 107 W. Palace Ave. in downtown Santa Fe. For more information, contact Jenice Gharib, New Mexico Arts, at (505) 827-6492 or (800) 879-4278 (statewide), or email JeniceE.Gharib@state.nm.us.

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New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, is the state arts agency. New Mexico Arts administers the state’s One Percent for Public Art program, awards grants to nonprofit organizations for arts and cultural programs in their communities across the state, and provides technical assistance and educational opportunities for organizations, artists, and arts educators throughout New Mexico.

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts – both new and established – bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation’s largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities and military bases.

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine, is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. It has embarked on an ambitious plan to bring the best poetry before the largest possible audience.