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POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST  
NEW MEXICO STATE FINALS  
March 9, 2014

Santa Fe – Join twelve New Mexico high school students at the St. Francis Auditorium of the New Mexico Museum of Art on Sunday March 9, 2014 at 1 p.m., as they compete to become New Mexico’s Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest Finalist. Admission for the event is free to the public.

“Since the first national Poetry Out Loud contest in 2006, more than two million high school students, and tens of thousands of teachers at thousands of high schools have taken this program and made it their own,” said NEA Senior Deputy Chairman Joan Shigekawa. "We are delighted to work in partnership with the Poetry Foundation, with state arts agencies, local arts organizations, schools, and teachers to help students discover the art of poetry."

The New Mexico competition was held statewide and 12 schools and 1,700 youth and 40 teachers participated at the classroom level. Schools who will send representatives to the state finals include, Bloomfield High School, Bosque School (Albuquerque), Carlsbad High School, Deming High School, La Cueva High School (Albuquerque), Magdalena High School, Oñate High School (Las Cruces), Public Academy for Performing Arts (Albuquerque), Raton High School, Santa Teresa High School, Southwest Secondary Learning Center (Albuquerque), and V. Sue Cleveland High School (Rio Rancho).

"To memorize and recite a great poem of the past or present," said Robert Polito, President of the Poetry Foundation, "is to 'own' it in the most personal way — in your body, your breath, and your spirit. Recitation is obviously an interpretive act, but also creative, and possibly even self-transformative."

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 portion 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 complexity, 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.

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