New Mexico Poetry Out Loud 2015
St. Francis Auditorium Santa Fe
Inspiring Students

“Since Poetry Out Loud began 10 years ago, some 9000 New Mexico high school students have participated in this exciting program,” said Governor Susana Martinez. “These students represent the best our state has to offer and I am proud of all of them—and their teachers—for doing their part to embrace and promote literacy in our state.”

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. The competition was held statewide. Ten schools sent their winners to the state finals in Santa Fe on February 22, 2015. The judges were New Mexico Arts Commissioner Tom Maguire, poet Debbi Brody, UNM professor and poet Lisa D. Chavez, and poet/lawyer Heming Xu.

“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 an interpretive act that is also creative and self-transformative. Celebrating its tenth anniversary, Poetry Out Loud is now a vital aspect of the American education landscape. It has enhanced the ways poetry is taught in schools and has created many future readers of classic and contemporary poetry. Perhaps the ultimate triumph of Poetry Out Loud is this realization of Whitman’s dream of ‘great audiences’ for ‘great poets’.”
Vivian Li, 15
Bosque School
Albuquerque
Teacher: Kevin Cummins

1. Thoughtless Cruelty, by Charles Lamb
2. Solitude, by Ella Wheeler Wilcox
3. It Couldn’t Be Done, by Edgar Albert Guest

I play the piano, draw, paint, read, and am interested in biological engineering. Also, I enjoy playing strategic games or any sort of brain teaser.

My dream for the future is to be a biomedical engineer, develop new findings to improve the health for many, and create products that will inspire in others the same awe that scientists inspire now in me.
Katie Delgado, 15
Los Alamos High School
Los Alamos
Teacher: Michelle Holland

1. *The End of Science*, by Lisel Mueller
2. *The Albatross*, by Kate Bass
3. *A Fit of Rhyme Against Rhyme*, by Ben Jonson
Katie’s interests are music, linguistics, photography, travel, running, and reading. Her favorite writers are Diana Wynne Jones, Mary Oliver, Edith Wharton, and Charlotte Bronte.

My dreams for the future are owning a bookstore, studying physics, working as a missionary doctor, living in a big city...oh, so many.
Andrew’s interests are reading and swimming. His favorite authors are Edgar Allen Poe and Rudyard Kipling. His dreams for the future:

*A happy life for myself and others.*
1. Bereavement, by William Lisle Bowles
2. Sweetness, by Stephen Dunn
3. Kubla Khan, by Samuel Taylor Coleridge
Brad’s interests are directing, acting, and writing. His favorite writers are Poe, Hemingway, and Anis Mojgani.

*I hope to be creative for the rest of my life.*
1. *The Clouded Morning*, by Jones Very
2. *All This and More*, by Mary Karr
3. *All Hallows’ Eve*, by Dorothea Tanning
Alex Wiesel, 15
Southwest Secondary Learning Center
Albuquerque
Teacher: Connie Blue

Alex enjoys hiking, baking, reading, and writing. Her favorite writers are Rick Riordan, Andrew Klavan, and Walt Whitman.

I hope to have my novels professionally edited and published.
1. *A Poison Tree*, by William Blake
2. *Double Dutch*, by Gregory Pardlo
3. *War Widow*, by Chris Abani
Michelle Zhou, 15
La Cueva High School
Albuquerque
Teacher: Martha Bedeaux

1st Runner-Up

1. *Grief*, by Elizabeth Barrett Browning
2. *Enough*, by Suzanne Buffam
3. *American Smooth*, by Rita Dove
Michelle’s interests include speech and debate, ballet, piano, ukulele, eating, Netflix, and fighting robot sharks. Her favorite writers are James Patterson, Ken Kesey, Sarah Dessen, and Rita Dove.

I hope to be a pediatrician or possibly a teacher. However, I will settle for being a professional robot shark fighter/writer.
Ryan Szeto, 15
Hiroshi Miyamura High School
Gallup
Teacher: Jeanne Polenz

Third Place

1. *The Ocean*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne
2. *Cartoon Physics, part 1*, by Nick Flynn
3. *America*, by Claude McKay

Ryan is interested in sports, videography, and technology. His dream for the future is to pursue a career in the medical field. His favorite authors are William Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe, and Claude McKay.
Lucas’ interests are poetry, dance, and writing. His favorite author is Edgar Allan Poe.

_I want to change the world._
Lucas Smathers, 16
Public Academy for the Performing Arts
Albuquerque
Teacher: Juliette Beck

1. *One Perfect Rose*, by Dorothy Parker
2. *April Love*, by Ernest Dowson
3. *Deliberate*, by Amy Uyematsu
Isacc Ramos, 16  
Deming High School  
Deming  
Teacher: Nelva Jones

1. *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*, by Langston Hughes  
2. *The Arrow and the Song*,  
   by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
3. *Break of Day*, by John Donne
Isacc’s interests are art and reading. His favorite writers are Edgar Allan Poe, J.R.R. Tolkien, William Shakespeare, and Mark Twain. He dreams of becoming an artist.
Rachel Patty, 17
Raton High School
Raton
Teacher: Tim Keller

1st Place

1. *Jabberwocky*, by Lewis Carroll
2. *Over and Under*, by John Brehm
3. *The Speakers*, by Weldon Kees

Rachel’s interests are writing, reading, Drama Club, and poetry. Her favorite writers are her mother Marcia Patty, Edgar Allan Poe, George R.R. Martin, and H.P. Mallory.

*I hope to become a published author after getting a bachelor’s degree in creative writing.*
Clockwise from above: Senator William Soules and Brad Martinez; Vivian Li and Senator Bill O’Neill; Representative Stephanie Garcia Richard with Katie Delgado and family.

Photography by Petr Jerabek
Front cover photograph by Rod Kennedy
State Champion Rachel Patty with the Poetry Foundation’s Justine Haka.