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POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST  
NEW MEXICO STATE FINALS March 12, 2017

Santa Fe – Join eight New Mexico high school students as they compete to become New Mexico’s *Poetry Out Loud* State Champion at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, 2017 at the St. Francis Auditorium of the New Mexico Museum of Art. Admission for the event is free and open to the public.

*Poetry Out Loud* is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Poetry Foundation and state arts agencies. The New Mexico event is sponsored by New Mexico Arts, a division of the state Department of Cultural Affairs.

Eight schools, 1202 students, and 19 teachers participated at the classroom level across New Mexico to select the eight finalists who will compete to be State Champion on March 12. Schools that will send representatives to the State Finals include Bosque School in Albuquerque, Carlsbad High School, Highland High School in Albuquerque, La Cueva High School in Albuquerque, Maxwell Schools, Oñate High School in Las Cruces, Public Academy for Performing Arts in Albuquerque, and Taos High School.

“Poetry Out Loud, at its core, is about the power of poetry,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “By memorizing these poems, students are internalizing the beauty of the arts and developing a deep personal connection with our shared literary heritage. The NEA is proud to work with our state partners and the Poetry Foundation to make this opportunity available to students through the country.”

The state winner will receive $200, plus $500 for their school library for the purchase of poetry books, and an 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 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, 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 Phyllis Kennedy, New Mexico Arts, at (505) 476-0520 or (800) 879-4278 (statewide), or email phyllis.kennedy@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.