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POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST  
NEW MEXICO STATE FINALS March 11, 2018

Santa Fe – Join 11 New Mexico high school students as they compete to become New Mexico’s Poetry Out Loud State Champion at the St. Francis Auditorium of the New Mexico Museum of Art on Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 1 p.m. 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.

Eleven schools, 1283 students, and 24 teachers participated at the classroom level across New Mexico to select the 11 finalists who will compete to be State Champion on March 11. Schools that will send representatives to the State Finals include Arrowhead Park Early College High School in Las Cruces, Bosque School in Albuquerque, Highland High School in Albuquerque, La Cueva High School in Albuquerque, Native American Community Academy in Albuquerque, Oñate High School in Las Cruces, Pojoaque Valley High School in Santa Fe, Public Academy for Performing Arts in Albuquerque, Rio Grande Preparatory Institute in Las Cruces, Sandia Prep in Albuquerque, and Taos High School in Taos.

“Poetry Out Loud offers high school teachers an easy-to-use, standards-based program to help students discover a range of poets from Emily Dickinson to Richard Blanco to Gwendolyn Brooks”, said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “Participating teachers receive free materials including a teacher’s guide, lesson plans, and access to audio-visual materials on the art of recitation. Students get to choose from among 900+ poems in the official Poetry Out Loud anthology, then bring them to life through memorization and recitation.”
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.

The 2018 official State Final Poster illustration is by Santa Fe artist Frank Buffalo Hyde. Hyde is represented by Tansey Contemporary in Santa and Denver.

*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.