



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT:
Jenice Gharib, Program Coordinator
505/827-6492, 800/879-4278 (statewide)

**POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST
NEW MEXICO STATE FINALS
February 27, 2011**

Santa Fe – Join eleven New Mexico high school students at the St. Francis Auditorium of the New Mexico Museum of Art on Sunday February 27, 2011 at 1 p.m., as they compete to become New Mexico's *Poetry Out Loud* National Recitation Contest Finalist. Santa Fe Poet Laureate Joan Logghe is scheduled to perform.

The New Mexico competition was held statewide with over 1,500 youth from 13 schools and almost 50 teachers participating at the classroom level. Participants in the state finals include Sean Michael Routt of La Cueva High School, Albuquerque; Triniti Pankach of Southwest Learning Centers, Albuquerque; Dalton Carey of Bernalillo High School, Bernalillo; Elyssa Moreno of Carlsbad High School, Carlsbad; Stephanie Garcia of Clayton High School, Clayton; Kayla Hoosier of Clovis High School, Clovis; Ethan Wertz of Deming High School, Deming; Zachary Lowery of Las Montañas High School, Las Cruces; and, Nicole Bartlett of Oñate High School, Las Cruces. Bloomfield High School and Public Academy for the Performing Arts have yet to name their champion. This year's judges include poet Anne Valley-Fox, poet Barbara Rockman, and Debbi Brody (accuracy judge).

The state winner will receive \$200 plus all expense-paid trip, with adult chaperone, to Washington, DC to compete at the National Finals. The winner's school will receive \$500 to purchase poetry books for the school library. 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 students to learn about great poetry through exploration, memorization, and performance. The program seeks 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. Admission is Free. 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.

“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.”

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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.