



OREGON ARTS  
COMMISSION

For Immediate Release  
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## First Round of School Winners Announced in *Poetry Out Loud* Competition

*State Winner Will Represent Oregon at Nationals in Washington, DC in April*

The Oregon Arts Commission, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, brings *Poetry Out Loud* to 25 high schools in 20 communities this year, reaching over 5,000 Oregon students. The program, now in its fifth year, involves the memorization and recitation of classic poetry and culminates in a statewide competition. Nationwide, more than 200,000 students are expected to participate. Participants compete for more than \$50,000 in college scholarships awarded at the state and national levels.

The first week of school contests has been completed. Winners include Zoe Thatcher, a junior at Salem Academy, who recited "The Death of Allegory" by Billy Collins and "The Bells of San Blas" by Longfellow, earning her a place at the state contest to be held March 12-13, 2010 in Salem. In Grants Pass, Maya Cross-Killingsworth won the Hidden Valley High School contest. Jordan Money, a junior, was the winner at Grants Pass High School after reciting "Poem with One Fact" by Donald Hall and "How I Discovered Poetry" by Marilyn Nelson.

Contests were also held at Sprague High School (Salem), Oregon School for the Deaf (Salem), Veritas School (Newberg) and Cascade Christian School (Medford), but winners have not yet been announced.

Oregon's 2009 State Champion, Tiffany Hill from Oregon School for the Deaf, was the first deaf student to compete in the national competition. Now a senior at Oregon School for the Deaf, she served on the judging panel for her school's contest. She will perform at the 2010 Oregon State Poetry Out Loud Contest which will be held:

Semi-Finals

**Friday, March 12, 7 – 10 pm**

Finals

**Saturday, March 13, 9:30 am – noon**

Salem Kroc Center

1865 Bill Frey Drive, **Salem**

Coordinator: Deb Vaughn  
503-986-0085; [deborah.vaughn@state.or.us](mailto:deborah.vaughn@state.or.us)

This year's state competition will be judged by Lawson Inada, Oregon poet laureate; Susan Coromel, actor and theatre professor at Willamette University; and poets Renee Mitchell (Portland), Judith Montgomery (Bend), Collier Nogues (Enterprise) and Eleanor Berry (Eugene).

In addition to winning a \$200 scholarship and \$500 for the school library's poetry collection, the state champion receives an all-expense-paid trip, with a chaperone, to Washington, DC to compete in the national finals, April 25-27, 2010. April is National Poetry Month.

*Poetry Out Loud* seeks to foster the next generation of literary readers by capitalizing on the latest trends in poetry – recitation and performance. The program builds on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement, and brings aspects of slam poetry, spoken word and theater into the English class.

“Learning great poetry by heart develops the mind and imagination,” observed Dana Gioia, the former chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts who initiated *Poetry Out Loud*. “*Poetry Out Loud* isn't just an arts program. By immersing themselves in powerful language and ideas, students develop their ability to speak well, especially in public. This is a skill they will use in the workplace and the community for the rest of their lives.”

The Oregon Arts Commission, the NEA and the Poetry Foundation partner to sponsor *Poetry Out Loud*. The Arts Commission has developed an Oregon Curriculum Guide that can be used to connect *Poetry Out Loud* classroom activities to Oregon's Content and Performance Standards in Language Arts and the Arts/Drama.

For more information on *Poetry Out Loud*, contact the Oregon Arts Commission at 503-986-0082, or visit the national website at [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org)

Media: Please contact the school coordinator for permission to cover a contest.

*\*Indicates a new Poetry Out Loud School for the 2009-2010 school year.*

Participating Schools	Contest Date/Time	School Coordinator Information
Arlington High School 1200 Main Street <b>Arlington</b>	February 19, 2010 11:00 am	Charles Van Gorder <a href="mailto:cvangorder@arlington.k12.or.us">cvangorder@arlington.k12.or.us</a> 541-454-2632
Ashland High School 201 South Mountain Ave. <b>Ashland</b>	February 18, 2010 7:00 pm	Jane Eisenberg <a href="mailto:bill.street@ashland.k12.or.us">bill.street@ashland.k12.or.us</a> 541-482-8771
Bandon High School 550 9th St. SW	February 19, 2010 3:30 pm	Ellen Howard <a href="mailto:ellenh@bandon.k12.or.us">ellenh@bandon.k12.or.us</a>

<b>Bandon</b>	Library	541-347-4413
Centennial High School* 3505 SE 181st <b>Gresham</b>	February 11, 2010 3:00 pm	Rita Ramstad <a href="mailto:rita_ramstad@centennial.k12.or.us">rita_ramstad@centennial.k12.or.us</a> 503-762-6180
Center for Advanced Learning 1484 NW Civic Dr <b>Gresham</b>	February 16, 2010 6:00 pm Forum Room	Jeanne Sheets-Sagoo <a href="mailto:jeanne_sheets-sagoo@thecenterforadvancedlearning.org">jeanne_sheets-sagoo@thecenterforadvancedlearning.org</a> 503-667-4978
Condon High School PO Box 575 <b>Condon</b>	February 16, 2010 Time TBA	Mike Keown <a href="mailto:mkeown@condon.k12.or.us">mkeown@condon.k12.or.us</a> 541-384-2441
Crook County High School 1100 SE Lynn Blvd <b>Prineville</b>	February 23, 2010 7:00 pm Eugene Southwell Auditorium	Anita Hoffman <a href="mailto:anita.hoffman@crookcounty.k12.or.us">anita.hoffman@crookcounty.k12.or.us</a> 541-416-6900
Hood River Valley High School 1220 Indian Creek Rd <b>Hood River</b>	February 18, 2010 9:00 am Columbia Performing Arts Center	Regena Rafelson <a href="mailto:rrafelson@hoodriver.k12.or.us">rrafelson@hoodriver.k12.or.us</a> 541-386-4500
Lake Oswego High School 2501 Country Club Rd <b>Lake Oswego</b>	February 18, 2010 6:30 pm auditorium	Jami Parcher Wray <a href="mailto:wrayj@loswego.k12.or.us">wrayj@loswego.k12.or.us</a> 503-534-2313
Lakeridge High School* 1235 Overlook Drive <b>Lake Oswego</b>	February 24, 2010 2:45 pm auditorium	Edward Derby <a href="mailto:derbye@loswego.k12.or.us">derbye@loswego.k12.or.us</a> 503-534-2319
Madison High School 2735 NE 82nd Ave <b>Portland</b>	February 25, 2010 12:30 PM library	Erin McNulty <a href="mailto:emcnulty@pps.k12.or.us">emcnulty@pps.k12.or.us</a> 503-916-5220
Metropolitan Learning Center 2033 NW Glisan <b>Portland</b>	February 23, 2010 9:00 AM Powell's: 1001 W. Burnside, Portland	Stephen Lambert <a href="mailto:slambert@pps.k12.or.us">slambert@pps.k12.or.us</a> 503-916-5737
Oregon City High School* 18761 S. Beaver Creek Rd. <b>Oregon City</b>	February 23, 2010 3:00 PM	Patrick McDonald <a href="mailto:patrick.mcdonald@orecity.k12.or.us">patrick.mcdonald@orecity.k12.or.us</a> 503-785-8900
Redmond High School Hartman Campus* 2105 W Arthur <b>Redmond</b>	February 11, 2010 Time TBA	Hilda Beltran <a href="mailto:hilda.beltran@redmond.k12.or.us">hilda.beltran@redmond.k12.or.us</a> 541-923-6680
Sherwood High School 16956 SW Meinecke Rd <b>Sherwood</b>	February 16, 2010 3:00 pm	Jared Jones <a href="mailto:jjones@sherwood.k12.or.us">jjones@sherwood.k12.or.us</a> 503-825-5500
Springfield Academy of Arts & Sciences* 615 Main St. <b>Springfield</b>	February 25, 2010 7:00 pm	Scott Crowell <a href="mailto:scott.crowell@sps.lane.edu">scott.crowell@sps.lane.edu</a> 541-744-6728

West Salem High School 1776 Titan Drive NW <b>Salem</b>	February 23, 2010 3:00 pm auditorium	Christina Eddy <a href="mailto:eddy_christina@salkeiz.k12.or.us">eddy_christina@salkeiz.k12.or.us</a> 503-399-5533
Woodburn Arts & Communications Academy 1785 N Front St <b>Woodburn</b>	February 17, 2010 8:00 am	Mindy Brooks <a href="mailto:mbrooks@woodburn.k12.or.us">mbrooks@woodburn.k12.or.us</a> 503-982-3398

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The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of the Business Oregon Department in 1993 in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission’s expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development. The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust. For more information about the Oregon Arts Commission:  
[www.oregonartscommission.org](http://www.oregonartscommission.org).