



OREGON ARTS  
COMMISSION

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Contact: Deborah Vaughn, (503) 986-0085  
[deborah.vaughn@state.or.us](mailto:deborah.vaughn@state.or.us)  
Shannon Planchon, (503) 229-6062  
[shannon.planchon@state.or.us](mailto:shannon.planchon@state.or.us)

## Four More School Winners Announced in Oregon

### *Poetry Out Loud* Competitions

*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 *Poetry Out Loud* contest uses a pyramid structure, similar to the national Spelling Bee. Beginning at the classroom levels, students advance to a school-wide competition, then to the state competition and ultimately to the National Finals in Washington, D.C.

More than half of Oregon's school contests have been completed. Oregon School for the Deaf announced Senior Simone Renee Moore, who performed "i carry your heart with me" by e.e. cummings, as its representative to the state contest. Sierra Donahue was the Sherwood High School winner, reciting "A Fit of Rhyme Against Rhyme" by Ben Jonson. Obdulia Valle Ramirez was declared the winner at Woodburn Arts and Communications Academy, after reciting two poems: "Let it Be Forgotten" by Sara Teasdale and "I Am!" by John Clare. Finally, Condon High School selected Delaney Edwards, a senior, as its winner.

Contests were also held at Sprague HS (Salem), Cascade Christian (Medford), Veritas School (Newberg), Centennial HS (Gresham), Redmond HS, Center for Advanced Learning (Gresham), Woodburn Arts and Communications Academy, Hood River Valley HS, Lake Oswego HS, Ashland HS, Arlington HS and Bandon HS but winners have not yet been announced.

Previously announced winners include:

Zoe Thatcher, Salem Academy  
Maya Cross-Killingsworth, Hidden Valley High School (Grants Pass)  
Jordan Money, Grants Pass High School

All school winners will advance to the 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 Oregon Poet Laureate Lawson Inada; Susan Coromel, actor and theatre professor at Willamette University; certified sign interpreter Danna Claborn 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.

"The Oregon Arts Commission is proud of Oregon's strong participation in Poetry Out Loud," observed Christine D'Arcy, executive director of the Oregon Arts Commission. "Teachers are increasingly incorporating *Poetry Out Loud* as a standard part of the school culture, providing their students with the chance to build self-confidence while exploring great poetry. Each year, we are impressed with the maturity and poise of the contestants we see at the state contest."

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.*

<b>Participating Schools</b>	<b>Contest Date/Time</b>	<b>School Coordinator Information</b>
Bandon High School 550 9th St. SW <b>Bandon</b>	February 19, 2010 3:30 pm Library	Ellen Howard <a href="mailto:ellenh@bandon.k12.or.us">ellenh@bandon.k12.or.us</a> 541-347-4413
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
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
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

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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).