



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

For Immediate Release
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Students from 25 Oregon High Schools Compete for Scholarships in Nationwide *Poetry Out Loud* Competition

State Winner Will Represent Oregon at Nationals in Washington, D.C.

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.

After months of classroom study and preparation, students participate in school wide recitation contests, with each winner eligible to compete in the state contest to be held March 12-13, 2010 in Salem.

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 will serve as an advisor to that school's contestants and will perform at the 2010 Oregon State Poetry Out Loud Contest which will take 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

This year's competition will be judged by Lawson Inada, Oregon poet laureate; Susan Cormel, actor and theatre professor at Willamette University; and poets Renee Mitchell (Portland), Judith Montgomery (Bend), Collier Noguees (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

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 Arlington	February 19, 2010 11:00 am	Charles Van Gorder cvangorder@arlington.k12.or.us 541-454-2632
Ashland High School 201 South Mountain Ave. Ashland	February 18, 2010 7:00 pm	Jane Eisenberg bill.street@ashland.k12.or.us 541-482-8771
Bandon High School 550 9th St. SW Bandon	February 19, 2010 3:30 pm Library	Ellen Howard ellenh@bandon.k12.or.us 541-347-4413
Cascade Christian High School 855 Chevy Way Medford	February 5, 2010 1:00 pm	Suzanne Ray sray@gracechristian.org 541-772-0606
Centennial High School* 3505 SE 181st Gresham	February 11, 2010 3:00 pm	Rita Ramstad rita_ramstad@centennial.k12.or.us 503-762-6180

Center for Advanced Learning 1484 NW Civic Dr Gresham	February 16, 2010 6:00 pm Forum Room	Jeanne Sheets-Sagoo jeanne_sheets-sagoo@thecenterforadvancedlearning.org 503-667-4978
Condon High School PO Box 575 Condon	Date & Time TBA	Mike Keown mkeown@condon.k12.or.us 541-384-2441
Crook County High School 1100 SE Lynn Blvd Prineville	February 23, 2010 7:00 pm Eugene Southwell Auditorium	Anita Hoffman anita.hoffman@crookcounty.k12.or.us 541-416-6900
Grants Pass High School 830 NE 9th St. Grants Pass	February 9, 2010 Time TBA	Tori Marshall tmarshall@grantspass.k12.or.us 541-474-5710
Hidden Valley High School 651 Murphy Creek Rd. Grants Pass	February 3, 2010 6:00 pm library	Julia Richardson julia.richardson@threerivers.k12.or.us 541-862-2124
Hood River Valley High School 1220 Indian Creek Rd Hood River	February 18, 2010 9:00 am Columbia Performing Arts Center	Regena Rafelson rrafelson@hoodriver.k12.or.us 541-386-4500
Lake Oswego High School 2501 Country Club Rd Lake Oswego	February 18, 2010 6:30 pm auditorium	Jami Parcher Wray wrayj@loswego.k12.or.us 503-534-2313
Lakeridge High School* 1235 Overlook Drive Lake Oswego	February 24, 2010 2:45 pm auditorium	Edward Derby derbye@loswego.k12.or.us 503-534-2319
Madison High School 2735 NE 82nd Ave Portland	February 18, 2010 1:00 PM library	Erin McNulty emcnulty@pps.k12.or.us 503-916-5220
Metropolitan Learning Center 2033 NW Glisan Portland	Date & Time TBA	Stephen Lambert slambert@pps.k12.or.us 503-916-5737
Oregon City High School* 18761 S. Beaver Creek Rd. Oregon City	Date & Time TBA	Patrick McDonald patrick.mcdonald@orecity.k12.or.us 503-785-8900
Oregon School for the Deaf 999 Locust St NE Salem	February 4, 2010 9:30 am gym	Gayle Robertson gayle.robertson@osd.k12.or.us 503-378-1328
Redmond High School Hartman Campus* 2105 W Arthur Redmond	February 11, 2010 Time TBA	Hilda Beltran hilda.beltran@redmond.k12.or.us 541-923-6680
Salem Academy 942 Lancaster Dr., NE Salem	February 4, 2010 7:00 pm gym	Sara Patrick spatrick@salemacademy.org 503-378-1219

Sherwood High School 16956 SW Meinecke Rd Sherwood	February 16, 2010 3:00 pm	Jared Jones jjones@sherwood.k12.or.us 503-825-5500
Sprague High School 2373 Kuebler Road S Salem	February 1, 2010 1:00 PM	Michael Curry curry_michael@salkeiz.k12.or.us 503-399-3261
Springfield Academy of Arts & Sciences* 615 Main St. Springfield	Date & Time TBA	Scott Crowell scott.crowell@sps.lane.edu 541-744-6728
Veritas School 401 Mission Dr Newberg	February 10, 2010 Time TBA	Megan Hills mhills@veritasschool.net 503-538-1962
West Salem High School 1776 Titan Drive NW Salem	February 23, 2010 3:00 pm auditorium	Christina Eddy eddy_christina@salkeiz.k12.or.us 503-399-5533
Woodburn Arts & Communications Academy 1785 N Front St Woodburn	February 17, 2010 8:00 am	Mindy Brooks mbrooks@woodburn.k12.or.us 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.