



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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NINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ADVANCE TO STATE CONTEST FOR 2017 POETRY OUT LOUD COMPETITION

Salem, Oregon – Regional Poetry Out Loud competitions held Saturday in Portland, Medford and Salem identified the nine Oregon high school students who will compete for the state title at Salem Public Library’s Loucks Auditorium on Saturday, March 11. Three finalists were selected from each regional competition with 31 statewide schools participating.

Poetry Out Loud is a national recitation contest for high school students, organized in Oregon by the Oregon Arts Commission in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Participants memorize and perform poems, practicing public presentation skills while exploring the complexity of poetry.

The three top finishers from the Northern Regional Contest, held at Portland State University, are: Hannah Bachman, St. Mary's Academy (2016 regional finalist); Sheila Panyam, Lincoln High School (2016 state finalist); and Ramie Warner, Sandy High School.

Finalists selected at the Central Regional Contest at Salem’s Willamette University are: Joshua Williams, St. Stephens Academy, Salem; Max Rudd, Sprague High School, Salem (2016 regional finalist); and Philip Chan, West Linn High School.

The winners of the Southern Regional Contest, hosted at the Medford Public Library, are: Delaney Murray, South Medford High School; Hannah VanHolle, Logos Public Charter School, Medford; and Megan Kim, Cascade Christian High School, Medford.

“Once again the caliber of performances was impressive and made selecting only three finalists from each competition a challenge,” said Deb Vaughn, the Arts Commission’s arts education/Poetry Out Loud coordinator.

The State Contest is scheduled from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Loucks Auditorium at Salem Public Library (585 Liberty St., SE). The winner will advance to the national Poetry Out Loud competition, scheduled for the last week in April in Washington, D.C.

Editor’s note: Photos and bio information are available upon request.

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 Oregon Business Development 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 grant-making, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature, federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.