



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 12, 2016

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**NDCA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE
SCHOOL-LEVEL POETRY OUT LOUD CONTESTS**

STATE POETRY OUT LOUD COMPETITION SET FOR MARCH 14, 2016

North Dakota Council on the Arts is proud to announce this year's Poetry Out Loud School Champions: Ty Farnsworth, Bismarck High School; Jordan Tongen, Cavalier Public School; Alea Juhl, Dakota Adventist Academy; Baylee Berg, Edgeley High School; Lauren Sampson, Edmore Public School; Susie Parker, Elgin/New Leipzig High School; Alanna Snortland, Fargo North High School; Raini Endicott, Fargo South High School; Allison Galbreath, Kidder County-Steele High School; Madelyn Schweitzer, Legacy High School; Emily Schmidt, Mandan High School; Caroline Huber, Minot High School; Zach Howatt, Northern Cass School; Mackenzie Holkesvig, Northwood Public School; Atati Mita, Ray High School; Nick Schons, Shanley High School; Thaine ThunderHawk, Solen High School; Gina Nelson, St. Mary's Central High School; and Emily Gilsrud, Wahpeton High School.

Chosen from a field of over 3,200 students, these nineteen School Champions will compete for top state honors at the North Dakota State Poetry Out Loud Competitions scheduled for Monday, March 14 at the North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, ND. The State Competition, which is free and open to the public, begins with two Semi-final Rounds of oral recitation at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 11:30 a.m., followed by a lunch break. The Final Round of competition begins at 1:30 p.m. and concludes with a short performance by Jessie Veeder. At 2:30 p.m. awards will be presented to the five top finalists. Each winner at the state level receives \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip with an adult chaperone to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Poetry Out Loud Competition. The state winner's school receives a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The first runner-up in each state receives \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library. A total of \$50,000 in awards and school stipends is awarded annually at the National Poetry Out Loud Finals.

Poetry Out Loud, presented in partnership with the North Dakota Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation, is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, recitation, performance, and competition.

To learn more about the North Dakota Poetry Out Loud contest contact Rebecca Engelman, Arts in Education Director, North Dakota Council on the Arts at (701) 328-7593; or visit

www.poetryoutloud.org.

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The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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